



Community Education Council 24

Mosaic Pre-K Center #777
50-15 44th Street, Room 109
Woodside, New York 11377
718-361-3560, ext. 1092
Email: cec24@schools.nyc.gov

Resolution No. 172

Resolution on Improving Multilingual Support and Communication in New York City Public Schools

Sponsor: Anna Karwowska

Co-Sponsor: Connie Altamirano, Matthew Crescio

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul's announcement on October 3, 2022, regarding the launch of the Office of Language Access, overseeing and providing guidance on the expanded statewide language access policy, reinforces New York State's commitment to being a national leader in language access;

WHEREAS, the new language access law mandates executive State agencies to provide interpretation services in any language and translate vital agency documents into the top 12 most spoken non-English languages, with flexibility for additional languages based on regional needs;

WHEREAS, the State Budget allocates \$2 million for the establishment of the Office of Language Access, operating out of the Office of General Services, ensuring efficient implementation of the new language access law, including funds for State agencies to translate documents into additional languages covered under the new law;

WHEREAS, the language access law requires each State agency to designate a language access coordinator and develop a language access plan, ensuring compliance and measuring performance, with a focus on improving access to government services for New Yorkers with limited English proficiency;



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WHEREAS, District 24, which CEC24 represents, is the most linguistically diverse district in all of New York City, with over 167 languages spoken within our schools and communities;

WHEREAS, the addition of more languages to communication and support systems will create a critical bridge between schools and families, improving educational outcomes and increasing family engagement;

WHEREAS, language barriers can result in disparities that negatively impact students' educational experiences by limiting access to crucial information related to school policies, resources, and support systems;

WHEREAS, enhancing parental awareness of their rights within the educational system and providing access to this information in their home languages is essential to supporting students' success.

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has a responsibility to foster inclusivity, ensuring that all families, regardless of linguistic background, have equal access to vital educational information.

WHEREAS, the Home Language Questionnaire (HLQ) plays a critical role in identifying students in need of English as a Second Language (ESL) services, and improved communication with parents regarding this process is necessary.

WHEREAS, clarification of the identification process for English Language Learners (ELLs), particularly through the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL), is needed to ensure that students receive adequate ESL support, especially in early education;



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WHEREAS, afterschool enrichment programs in students' home languages are urgently needed to support learners recovering from pandemic-related learning loss;

WHEREAS, improved transparency and responsiveness in communication from the Chancellor's Central Office regarding critical issues affecting students and parents is vital;

WHEREAS, teacher training programs should be developed in the languages of all bilingual programs to better address the linguistic diversity within our student population;

WHEREAS, the lack of student workbooks in various languages limits access to educational materials and hinders learning opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Education Council District 24 urges the Department of Education to update Chancellor Regulation A-663, which has not been revised in over 15 years, to reflect the growing linguistic diversity and needs of our communities. Additionally, the Council calls for consistent communication and services in more than nine languages, covering all bilingual programs languages in NYCPS. This communication should include:

1. Ensuring accurate and timely translation and interpretation services for documents, announcements, and meetings in these languages to facilitate family engagement and access to information.
2. Promoting awareness of parental rights and the significance of the Home Language Questionnaire (HLQ) in identifying students requiring ESL services.



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3. Clarifying the identification process for English Language Learners (ELLs) through the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL), with a focus on early education students to ensure they receive necessary ESL support.

4. Developing afterschool enrichment programs in home languages to support young learners recovering from pandemic-related learning loss and to strengthen their academic performance.

5. Enhancing communication from the Chancellor's Central Office regarding critical issues affecting students and parents, particularly in linguistically diverse communities.

6. Expanding training programs for teachers in the languages of all bilingual programs to better serve the unique needs of our diverse student population.

7. Providing student workbooks and other educational materials in multiple languages to ensure all students have equal access to learning resources.

Community Education Council District 24 remains committed to promoting inclusivity, eliminating language barriers, and fostering a more equitable and supportive educational environment for all.

By collaborating with the Department of Education and the NYS Office of Language Access, we seek to implement these crucial changes and provide better support for the linguistically diverse families in our district.



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CEC24 Approved and Adopted at the CEC24 Meeting on October 22, 2024.

Nine members present, one member absent.