



COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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Resolution #117

Regarding The Need For Interpretation/Translation Services For Citywide Councils and Community Education Councils

Whereas, Community District Education Councils (CEC's), were established by New York State (NYS) Education Law 2590-B; and

Whereas, NYS Education Law 2590-C, Composition of community district education councils, states “. . . procedures shall ensure that at least one position on the community council is filled by a parent of a student who is an English Language Learner (ELL)”; and

Whereas, according to the New York City Department Of Education (NYCDOE), Department of English Language Learners and Student Support School Year 2013-2014 Demographic Report, 43.3% (or 423,189) of all NYCDOE students report speaking a language other than English at home and ELLs account for 14.3% (or 139,843) of the overall NYCDOE student population; and

Whereas, according to information provided by Division of Family and Community Engagement (FACE), during the 2013-2015 term there were ELL parents on only six CECs and the CCELL did not have a full council; and

Whereas, the elections held for the 2015-2017 term resulted in a full CCELL council and ELL parents on 13 CECs, and

Whereas, the increase in ELL parents on citywide and district education councils has resulted in the need for additional interpretation and translation services so that council members can adequately perform their duties and responsibilities; and

Whereas, Chancellor's Regulation A-663 establishes the procedures for ensuring that Limited English Speaking parents are provided with a meaningful opportunity to participate in and have access to programs and services critical to their child's education; and

Whereas, Chancellor's Regulation A-663 mandates that the NYCDOE through its Translation and Interpretation Unit provide interpretation services at all Citywide public meetings, including all public Citywide Council and Community Education Council meetings.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Community District Education Council 30 (CDEC30) strongly recommends that the NYCDOE provide additional resources to adequately support interpretation and translation services to citywide and district education council members; and

Be It Further Resolved, that resources include funding for additional staff to the NYCDOE's Translation and Interpretation Unit to handle the additional interpretation and translation services required by the increase in ELL parents elected to the education councils, which should include

interpretation at additional meetings, as well as translation of flyers/notices, agendas, minutes, communication between council members and chancellor's regulations; and

Be It Further Resolved, that interpretation services be expanded to include all public meetings held by Citywide Councils and Community Education Councils including special meetings and committee meetings, in addition to one calendar and one business meeting a month imposed by FACE; and

Be It Further Resolved, that Citywide Councils and Community Education Council members be allowed to access the Translation and Interpretation (T&I) telephone services to communicate with fellow ELL council members and ELL constituents; and

Be It Further Resolved, that Bilingual glossaries, in the nine (9) most common languages spoken in the New York City area: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, of NYCDOE terminology and special education terms and definitions be easily available and accessible to all ELL parents, as well as community education councils; and

Be It Further Resolved, that CDEC30 will work cooperatively with the NYCDOE regarding updating Chancellor's Regulation A-663 to reflect recommendations contained in this resolution.

VOTED AND APPROVED: October 19, 2015