



COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 30

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Resolution #152 Urging the Department of Education to Provide Translation and Interpretation Services at all Community Education Council Meetings

WHEREAS, According to the New York City Department of Education (“NYCDOE”) 2018-2019 *English Language Learner Demographic Report*, over 42% of students enrolled in the city’s public schools – or 396,677 children – speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS, NYCDOE has identified 17% of students as English Language Learners, or “ELLs.” This proportion is significantly higher in Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx, where ELLs constitute more than 25% of public school students; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor’s Regulation A-663 acknowledges NYCDOE’s responsibility to ensure parents with limited English ability have “a meaningful opportunity participate in and have access to programs and services critical to their child’s education;” and

WHEREAS, Chancellor’s Regulation A-663 further requires NYCDOE, through its Translation and Interpretation Unit, provide interpretation services at all Community Education Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, The Translation and Interpretation Unit requires advance notice of 10 business days – which in many instances, means 14 calendar days – to request interpretation services for Community Education Council meetings, without exception; and

WHEREAS, On an irregular basis, Community Education Councils must hold special meetings on issues of urgent concern, and are permitted to do so with as little as 72 hours public notice according to New York State’s Open Meetings Law §104; and

WHEREAS, The Translation and Interpretation Unit’s advance notice requirement has precluded it from fulfilling its mandate to provide interpretation services at all Community Education Council meetings, and has prevented parents with limited English ability from meaningfully participating in their children’s education.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Community District Education Council 30 urges the NYCDOE to guarantee translation and interpretation services for all Community Education Council meetings by, *inter alia*, providing adequate funding and staff to the Translation and Interpretation Unit.

Voted and Approved: April 6, 2021