



Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL)

Department of Education of the City of New York

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Citywide Council for English Language Learners (CCELL) Resolution # 09

Support for Free English Classes for Parents who are ELLs in NYC Public Schools

June 2012

Whereas, the CCELL, established by NYS Education Law 2590-B, 5. (a) (i) – (iii) (the Law) with the power to advise and consent on any educational or instructional policy involving bilingual or English as a Second Language Programs, and to issue an annual report on the effectiveness of the city district in providing services to English Language Learners (ELLs) and making recommendations, as appropriate, on how to improve the efficiency and delivery of such services; and

Whereas, according to NYCDOE Spring 2011 Report (the Report), on 2010-2011 Demographics of NYC English Language Learners (ELLs) more than 41% of NYC students report speaking a language other than English at home; and

Whereas, the Report states that the current number ELLs in the NYC system is 154,466 students, which is 14.3% of the student population (excluding charter schools), among which 168 home languages are represented; and

Whereas, the Report states that about 45.5% of current ELLs are foreign born and that new immigrant students in NYC schools this year number 72,630 or around 6.7% of the student population; and

Whereas, it is logical to expect that most parents of ELLs will be ELLs themselves, in need of services that will enable them to learn English; and

Whereas, parent involvement has been proven to be a major factor in the school success of all students; and

Whereas, providing resources to ELL parents and/or caregivers by encouraging them to learn English in classes available for free in the public schools their children attend, or nearby, can more effectively help their children with homework and other school activities; and

Whereas, ELL parents who learn English will have more opportunity to become well-informed and engaged about information regarding their children's needs, among which are testing requirements, and applications and acceptances at middle school and high school; and

Whereas, investing in free English classes for ELL parents will strengthen parent and family involvement, as well as the entire community; and now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the CCELL strongly recommends and supports that the NYC Department of Education provide resources; including funding, staff, space and materials; to New York City public schools for free English classes for parents who are speakers of languages other than English (ELLs) to facilitate their learning of English; and be it further

Resolved, that the CCELL fully recommends and supports that the NYCDOE reach out to foundations for financial support during these difficult financial times so that ELL parents can learn English for free in their children's school or nearby; and be it further

Resolved, that that the CCELL expects to support and cooperate with the NYCDOE so that ELL parents can become fully engaged in their children's education.

Adopted by the Citywide Council on English Language Learners on June 27th, 2012

References:

1. NYCDOE Spring 2011 Report on 2010-2011 Demographics of NYC English Language Learners (ELLs)