



# Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL)

Department of Education of the City of New York

**Teresa Arboleda**, *President*

**Awatef Ibrahim**, *1st V.P.*

**Mitchel Wu**, *Rec. Secretary*

**Miguelina Martinez**, *Treasurer*

*Council Members:*

*Division of English Language Learners:* **Milady Baez**, *Executive Director*

**Yenny Almonte**, **Christina Assad**, **Bin Huang**, **Leonora Lokaj**, **Yohanna Martinez**,

**Yalitza Johnson**, *Chief of Staff*

**Guillermo Rodriguez**, **Sunita Singh**

*Student Member:* **Darihana Gonzalez**

## **CCELL Resolution 20: The Need for Interpretation/Translation Services for Citywide and District Education Councils**

**Whereas**, the CCELL, was established by NYS Education Law 2590-B, . . . with the power to advise and consent on any educational or instructional policy involving bilingual or English as a Second Language Programs, . . . ; 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, . . . within the past two years; and

**Whereas**, according to the 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 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/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 therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the CCELL 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 staff 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, resolutions, minutes and chancellor's regulations; and be it further

**Resolved**, that interpretation services be expanded to include special meetings and committee meetings, in addition to one calendar and one business meeting a month; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Council members be allowed to access the T&I telephone services; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Bilingual glossaries of Department of Education terminology and special education terms and definitions be easily available and accessible to all ELL parents, as well as education councils; and be it further

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