

New York State

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Leading the Way



New York State has long been the gateway for immigrant success, where economic and social success relies on an educated, globally aware citizenry, prepared to address the issues of an ever-changing world.

Together we must build solutions to meet the specialized needs of English Language Learner students and families who are an integral part of our community.

According to the NYS Student Information Repository System, well over 60% of New York's ELLs were born in the United States and speak over 200 different languages, according to the State Education Department.

New York has the 4th highest number of ELL students in the country. There were 218,000 ELL students in our schools in the 2016-17 school year, with 70% of ELLs in our Big Five City School Districts.

Supporting English Language Learners and Their Families

Adequately supporting ELL students and their families continues to be a challenge for many districts and communities, as they try to provide increased services and supports for all students, while juggling limited state resources, bound by a tax levy limit that has been devastatingly low for the past few years.

NYS PTA fully supports:

- Additional dedicated funding for ELL students, especially for school districts experiencing high density populations of diverse language speakers;
- Improved current aid to address mid-year influxes of unaccompanied minor students, and increased support for districts with high unaccompanied minor populations;
- Fiscal support for and examination of Part 154 implementation and requirements;
- Accelerated teacher training for all educators in supporting ELL students and their families, along with expedited certification of bilingual educators;
- Continued and increased support for the NYS Education Department Office of Family Engagement, with staff dedicated to support ELL students and families; and
- Expansion of the state's capacity to provide translation and interpretation services, especially for key parent documents, to minimize local district impact.

Alongside the Education Conference Board, we call for:

- Creation of a \$100 million ELL aid category to ensure districts can deliver the enhanced levels of service necessary for ELL success;
- Adjustment of funding structures for BOCES aid to help offset new costs associated with providing services to ELL students and commensurate resources for non-component school districts with large numbers of ELL pupils; and
- Expansion of opportunities for teachers to obtain bilingual extension certification and incentives for individuals in teacher prep programs to become certified to teach English Language Learners.

For more information, please contact Kyle McCauley Belokopitsky, Esq., NYS PTA Executive Director at execdirector@nyspta.org, 518-452-8808