



**Embrace Advocacy for
Every Child**

New York is the gateway for immigrant success, and we are proud that the legislature just passed the DREAM Act for our immigrant students.

According to the NYS Student Information Repository System, well over 60% of New York's ELL students were born in the United States. While New York ELLs frequently speak Spanish, Chinese, Haitian, Korean or Russian, there are astoundingly over 210 different languages spoken by our nearly 300,000 ELL students.

Adequately supporting ELL students and their families continues to be a challenge for many districts and communities.

Supporting English Language Learners and their Families

We ask you to support:

1. Creation of a \$100 million ELL aid category to ensure districts can deliver the enhanced levels of service necessary for ELL success;
2. Improve current aid to address mid-year influxes of unaccompanied minor students and support for districts with high ELL populations;
3. Fiscal support for Part 154 implementation and requirements;
4. Accelerate teacher training for all educators in supporting ELL students and their families, along with expedited certification of bilingual and TESOL educators, and incentives for those in teacher prep programs to become certified to teach ELL students;
5. Increase support for the State Education Department Office of Family Engagement, with staff dedicated to support ELL students;
6. Expansion of the state's capacity to provide translation and interpretation services, especially for key parent documents; and
7. Adjustment of funding structures for BOCES aid to help offset new costs associated with providing ELL services and commensurate resources for non-component school districts.

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