



Citywide Council on English Language Learners

28-11 Queens Plaza North, 4th Floor, LIC, NY, 11101 Tel: (718) 391-8596 Email: CCELL@schools.nyc.gov

Charlie Huang President	Lilly Chan First Vice President	Muneer Abualroub Second Vice President	Emily Li Treasurer	Calvin Wei Recording Secretary
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Division of Multilingual Learners: Mirza Sanchez-Medina **Deputy Chief Academic Officer**

Council Members: Bizhu Chen, Assietou Sow, Martha Rybicka, Chiara Sovegni, Elmahdi Oummih, Mitchel Wu

Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) Resolution # 47

Resolution to request New York public schools to provide ELL family guidebook in top 10 ELL home languages

Approved at the CCELL meeting on 3/8/2022

The Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL), was established by NYS Education Law 2590-B, 5. (a) (i) – (iii) with the power to advise and consent on any educational or instructional policy involving bilingual or English as a Second Language Programs, . . . and make recommendations, as appropriate, on how to improve the efficiency and delivery of such services.

Whereas, about 15% of New York City public school students are English Language Learners (ELLs); and

Whereas, the voices of ELL communities have often not been heard and families have experienced isolation due to not having knowledge of English, sometimes low economic status, and misunderstanding of diverse cultures; and

Whereas, parents' involvement plays a key role in their children's success at school, but ELL parents' engagement in their children's education is at a much lower level than general students' parents; and

Whereas, too many ELL parents lack basic knowledge of ELL parents' Bill of Rights, what bilingual programs are available for their children, how to access information, and strategies on how to support their children's education; and

Whereas, a guidebook/handbook should be developed by the DOE to make it convenient for ELL families to access basic knowledge, like their rights, how to access resources, etc., and

Whereas, that a guidebook/handbook that can meet the requirements of promoting engagement and empowerment of ELL families, translated into the top 10 ELL home languages. This will provide a convenient and easily accessible tool to ELL parents because they can access the basic knowledge anytime, anywhere; and



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Whereas, a guidebook will save a lot of time for our schools as well because they won't need to answer a lot of questions of ELL parents regarding basic information about ELL programs; and

Whereas, a guidebook will be good for DOE because they will not need to spend a lot of resources to promote ELL community engagement, like "know your rights" campaigns; and

Whereas, a guidebook will be helpful to ELL kids as well because their parents are equipped with more knowledge to support them; and

Resolved, that an electronic version should be provided on DOE website and it should be updated on a regular basis; and

Resolved, that the paper guidebooks should also be provided to parents once their children are identified as ELL students, and in case they don't have easy technology access; and

Resolved, that the contents of the guidebook should include at least these following sections, ELL family Bill of rights, ELL program introduction, how to maintain communication regularly with schools, ELL parents resources directory and other ways for ELL parents to seek help; and be it further,

Resolved, that the CCELL strongly recommends that NYCDOE develops the guidebook/handbook with input from more stakeholders of the ELL communities, including parents, students, teachers, schools staff, etc.