

VII.E.

Connecticut State Board of Education Hartford

To Be Proposed:

January 3, 2024

Resolved, That the State Board of Education, pursuant to Section 17 of Public Act 23-150, adopts the Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners.

Approved by a vote of _____, this third day of January, Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

Signed: _____
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Secretary
State Board of Education

**Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford**

To: State Board of Education
From: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Commissioner of Education
Date: January 3, 2024
Subject: Adoption of Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners

Executive Summary

Introduction

Pursuant to Public Act 23-150 Section 17 the State Board of Education shall draft a written bill of rights for parents or guardians of students who are multilingual learners to guarantee that the rights of such parents and students are adequately safeguarded and protected in the provision of bilingual education under Chapter 164 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the sharing of this Bill of Rights in the dominant language of the parents or guardians.

The Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners (ELs/MLs) is needed to organize and elevate the rights that parents have related to language access through translation and interpretation and to clarify and affirm the access that children identified as ELs/MLs have to grade level content area instruction, language instruction programs, and interventions. The rights affirmed in the statute and through this resource have been established in federal and/or state legislation. The Parent Bill of Rights for ELs/MLs brings attention and awareness to these rights and provides parents with explanations of what such rights mean for them and for their children.

History/Background

The rights affirmed in the Parent Bill of Rights for ELs/MLs stem from a range of federal legislation and state statutes, which have been established at different times and in different contexts. As a result, while the rights are all currently enacted, until now there has been no resource or guidance document that specifically identifies those rights related to language and program access that are most pertinent to multilingual parents and students identified as ELs/MLs. This has led to inconsistent implementation of such rights and challenges related to awareness and compliance. The Parent Bill of Rights for ELs/MLs intends to affirm these rights to all stakeholders and create more parity in the enactment of them across all districts in Connecticut.

Recommendation

The CSDE presents the Parent Bill of Rights for English Learner/Multilingual Learners for review and consideration of adoption.

Next Steps

Upon adoption, for the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education providing a program of bilingual education or English as a new language shall:

- Provide the parents and guardians of eligible students with a copy of the multilingual learner bill of rights in the dominant language of such parents and guardians, and
- Make such copies of the multilingual learner bill of rights available on the website of such board.

The CSDE will:

- Translate the Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners;
- Make available translated copies of the Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners;
- Offer information sessions to stakeholder groups regarding the Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners;
- Create a page on the CSDE website portal to house the legislation, Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners document, translated versions of the Parent Bill of Rights, related guidance and requirements, and other relevant resources;
- Develop a process to monitor that the Parent Bill of Rights for English Learners/Multilingual Learners has been posted on district websites and distributed to parents and families; and
- Develop a process for parents and families to reach out to the CSDE if they have questions or concerns related to the enactment of these rights.

Prepared by: Megan Alubicki Flick, Ed.D.
K-12 English Learners/Multilingual Learners
Education Consultant, Academic Office

Approved by: Irene E. Parisi
Chief Academic Officer