

**RESOLUTION ENHANCING MULTILINGUAL SUPPORT AND COMMUNICATION IN NEW YORK CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY UPDATING CHANCELLOR'S REGULATION A-663 TO CURRENT NEED**

2024-2025 Panel for Educational Policy

Meeting Consideration:

12 March 2025

Introduction Date:

27 January 2025

Sponsorship:

Panel Member, Dr. Darling J. Miramey
Panel Member, Naveed Hasan

Co-Sponsorship:

Panel Member, Marielle Ali
Panel Member, Shirley Aubin
Panel Member, Camille Casaretti

FINAL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Governor Kathy Hochul's establishment of the Office of Language Access on October 3, 2022, solidifies New York State's commitment to national leadership in language access, guiding executive State agencies to provide interpretation services in any language and translate vital documents into the top 12 most commonly spoken non-English languages, with flexibility for additional languages based on regional needs.

Acknowledging the diverse linguistic backgrounds within the NYC Public Schools community, which necessitates enhanced support.

Recognizing that language barriers can result in educational disparities, negatively impacting students by limiting access to crucial information related to education, policies, and resources.

Identifying the need to enhance parental awareness of their rights within the educational system, emphasizing access to information in their home languages.

Understanding New York City Public Schools' (NYCPS) responsibility to foster inclusivity, ensuring all families have equal access to essential information regardless of linguistic background.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Panel for Educational Policy (Panel) encourages the Chancellor to:

Update Chancellor's Regulation A-663 to align with current NYS language access regulations, thereby ensuring the system of language selection effectively accommodates the diverse linguistic needs of the NYCPS community. As part of this update, establish Permanent Translation and Interpretation Services that, at a minimum, mirror the state regulation in the top 12 non-English languages spoken in NYS (as per the new language access law). Additionally, include any further languages identified through comprehensive regional needs assessments.

These services will cover, but not be limited to:

- a. Documents (policy documents, student materials, etc.)
- b. NYCPS Website Content
- c. Meetings
- d. Public Announcements
- e. Parent-Teacher Conferences and Communication Tools
- f. Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and 504 Plan Documents
- g. Other Critical Community Engagement materials including Critical Communications from the Chancellor's Central Office

Enhance Parental Awareness of their rights and the significance of the Home Language Questionnaire (HLQ) in identifying students requiring ESL services.

Clarify ELLs Identification Process through the NYSITELL, focusing on early education students who may transition without adequate ESL support.

Develop Afterschool Enrichment Programs in home languages to support young learners recovering from pandemic-related learning loss.

Improve Communication and Responsiveness from the Chancellor's Central Office regarding critical issues affecting students and parents.

Develop Teacher Training Programs in all bilingual program languages to better serve the linguistically diverse student population.

Provide Student Workbooks in Various Languages to facilitate learning opportunities.

Explore and Implement New Technology and Tools to enhance multilingual support and communication.

The Panel is committed to ensuring every student and their family have equal access to the resources and information they need to thrive in our diverse educational community. This resolution reflects our dedication to promoting inclusivity, eliminating language barriers, and fostering a more equitable and supportive educational environment for all.