



Community District Education Council 26

New York City Department of Education

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Resolution on Establishing Uniform Eligibility for English Language Learners (ELL) Members Serving on Citywide Education Councils

WHEREAS, the Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL) was established pursuant to New York State Education Law §2590-b to advise the Chancellor and the Department of Education on policies affecting bilingual education and English as a Second Language / English as a New Language (ESL/ENL) programsⁱ; and

WHEREAS, since its establishment in 2010, CCELL has faced persistent difficulty seating and retaining a full complement of eligible parent members due to statutory eligibility requirements that limit service to parents of children currently enrolled in bilingual or ENL services, despite sustained and repeated recruitment efforts; and

WHEREAS, prior amendments to state law in 2013, 2014, and 2019 modestly expanded eligibility for parents of ELL students to serve on Community Education Councils (CECs), including allowing parents of students who *are or have ever been* ELLs to fill designated ELL seats on CECs; however, those amendments did not extend the same eligibility standard to CCELL or to the CCELL-designated seat on the Citywide Council on High Schools (CCHS); and

WHEREAS, as a result, eligibility standards for parents of ELL students are inconsistent across education governance bodies, creating confusion during election and vetting processes and resulting in otherwise qualified parent candidates being deemed ineligible for Citywide Council service; and

WHEREAS, these statutory inconsistencies have led to chronic vacancies and operational instability at the Citywide level, including documented periods during which CCELL was unable to achieve quorum for extended durations, necessitating extraordinary administrative intervention to declare vacancies and appoint members in order to restore basic council operations; and

WHEREAS, vacancy data published by NYC Public Schools indicate that ELL-designated seats are among the most difficult to fill, with approximately thirty-four percent (34%) of ELL seats on Community Education Councils citywide vacant as of December 2025, demonstrating the limited pool of eligible candidates under current law and further validating the need for expanded eligibility at the Citywide levelⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, English Language Learners comprise approximately fifteen percent (15%) of New York City’s public school enrollment, representing more than 150,000 students, underscoring the disproportionate impact when Citywide Councils charged with advising on ELL policy are unable to function effectively due to structural eligibility barriersⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, parents whose children have exited ELL status possess longitudinal experience with language acquisition, reclassification processes, and post-ELL academic outcomes, rendering them uniquely qualified to provide informed oversight and policy guidance beyond the period of active service enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the Citywide Council on English Language Learners has formally adopted a resolution calling for uniform eligibility across the 32 CECs, CCELL, and the CCHS so that parents of students who *currently are or have ever been* ELLs may serve consistently across all education councils; and

WHEREAS, New York State Senate Bill S6355 (2025–2026 Legislative Session) directly advances this objective by expanding eligibility for CCELL membership and the CCELL-designated seat on the Citywide Council on High Schools to parents whose children have ever received bilingual or ENL services, thereby aligning Citywide eligibility standards with those already applicable to Community Education Councils^{iv};

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Community Education Council (CEC) 26 formally supports New York State Senate Bill S6355 as a necessary and targeted amendment to Education Law §2590-b; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Senate Bill S6355 is fully aligned with the Citywide Council on English Language Learners' resolution calling for uniform eligibility standards for parents of English Language Learners across Citywide and Community Education Councils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that enactment of S6355 would:

1. Reduce chronic vacancies in Citywide Council ELL-designated seats by expanding the pool of eligible parent candidates;
2. Improve continuity and institutional stability by allowing experienced parents to complete full terms even after their child exits ELL status;
3. Strengthen Citywide oversight of ELL policy by retaining members with direct experience in reclassification and long-term academic outcomes; and
4. Promote equitable representation and parent empowerment for multilingual learners and immigrant families within New York City's education governance system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC 26 urges the Office of Family and Community Empowerment (FACE) to proactively and automatically notify all eligible CCELL candidates who were not elected during regular Community and Citywide Education Council elections of the opportunity to serve as a CCELL appointee to the Citywide Council on High Schools.

During the CEC 26 meeting held on February 12, 2026, the resolution was reviewed and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

ⁱ <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EDN/2590-B>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/education-councils/community-education-councils>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://infohub.nyced.org/reports/students-and-schools/english-language-learners>

^{iv} <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2025/S6355>