

Why Advocate?

"Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better.
It's not."



Dr. Seuss,

The Lorax

Welcome to the 2019 Advocacy & Policy Summit

NJTESOL/NJBE

October 12, 2019

Rutgers University GSE–

New Brunswick



AGENDA

- **Affinity groups**
- **Federal and state policy update**
- **Know the rights of ELs and their Families**
- **Community Based Organizations – Make the Road NJ**
- **Equity and the Seal of Biliteracy**
- **Take Action**

Affinity Groups

- On a post-it, write one question you would like addressed in today's session.
 - Walk around the room and share your question with your colleagues.
 - Create affinity groups with others who have the same or a similar question.
 - Synthesize and categorize your questions and post on large chart paper.
-
- **We are all interested in...**
 - Post comments or questions at <https://padlet.com/ejf24bb/yuwmz3k25cin> during the sessions.



Advocacy Update

- **Standardized testing and ELs**
- **Immediate: State BOE Reduce testing**
- <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/ask-the-state-board-of-education-to-reduce-testing-for-students?source=direct> link&
- The DOE is proposing two years of testing in 9th and 11th grade. Please state that you are writing about N.J.A.C. 6A:8, Standards and Assessment. Please personalize the subject line and letter with your own experiences with ELs:
 - Testing takes more than the two or three hours allotted for the test itself, and takes away from ELs' instructional time.
 - Teachers of ELs are constantly assessing student knowledge of standards and student learning by providing appropriate scaffolds to ensure students are learning content and mastering the curriculum standards.

Other Concerns

- **Students denied enrollment**

- **Plyler v. Doe**

- <https://homerom5.doe.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2018/AUG/22/18844/Enrollment%20Considerations%20for%20Immigrant%20Students.pdf>

- School districts are prohibited from implementing discriminatory enrollment practices, intentionally or unintentionally, that may exclude children from enrolling in public school based upon their immigration status pursuant to state regulations (N.J.A.C. 6A:22-3.3).

Other Concerns

- **Test in Driver's Education**
 - Contact Lennie.Parham@doe.nj.gov, Leslie.FranksMcRae@doe.nj.gov, maria.romero@doe.nj.gov
 - Please resolve the issue of testing only in English and provide guidance to districts
- **Equity and ELs**
- **Teacher Education**
 - Shortage of bilingual teachers
- **Pre school Expansion and Dual Language Learners**
- Increasing ELs' participation in the **Seal of Biliteracy**.
- Guidelines for **ELs and Special Education**.
- Services for **Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)**

Possible and Pending Legislation

- In NJ, A-2437 establishes a grant program for Dual language Immersion. It is sitting in the Assembly Education Committee.
- Federally, a bill has been introduced in both the Senate (S545) and the House of Representatives (HR 1153) that will establish a grant program to fund certifying more teachers to work with ELs. Only Pallone and Sires have co-sponsored these bills.
- Another bill has been introduced, HR1239 World Language Advancement and Readiness Act of 2019.
 - Competitive grants to SEA and LEAs for the establishment, improvement, or expansion of innovative model programs for world language study for elementary school and secondary school students.
- Check <https://njtesol-njbe.org/advocacy/> for contact information.

How to stay informed

- **NJDOE Bilingual Office** <https://www.nj.gov/education/bilingual/>
- **NJAC 6A:15 Bilingual code**
- <https://www.nj.gov/education/code/current/title6a/chap15.pdf>
- **NJDOE Broadcasts** <https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/broadcasts/?p=y>
- **NJTESOL/NJBE** <https://njtesol-njbe.org/advocacy/>
- **Social media** <https://www.facebook.com/NJTESOL.NJBE/>
- https://twitter.com/NJTESOL_NJBE