



# Citywide Council on English Language Learners (CCELL)

Department of Education of the City of New York

*Teresa Arboleda, President*

*Alma Fuentes, 1st V.P.*

*Raymond Lee, Rec. Secretary*

*Vanessa Leung, Treasurer*

*Council Members:*

*Office of English Language Learners: Angelica Infante, Executive Director*

*Martha Arenas, Antonieta Alarcon, Awatef Ibrahim*

## Citywide Council for English Language Learners (CCELL) Resolution #03

Interpretation of NYS Education Law and Chancellor's Regulations regarding Eligibility to serve on the CCELL  
February 7, 2012

**Whereas**, Chancellor's Regulation A-660 Sec II, F, revised 4/21/10, states "the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council (CPAC) is a citywide organization that advises the Chancellor on issues of importance to parents that affect New York City public school students. CPAC also supports Presidents' Councils (PC) by providing information on important issues affecting the schools and guidance in the development of local parent leadership. The president of each PC, or his/her designee, is a member of CPAC." and

**Whereas**, the CCELL, established by NYS Education Law 2590-B, 5. (a) (i) – (iii) (the Law) with the power to advise and consent on any educational or instructional policy involving bilingual or English as a Second Language Programs, and to issue an annual report on the effectiveness of the city district in providing services to English Language Learners (ELLs) and making recommendations, as appropriate, on how to improve the efficiency and delivery of such services; and

**Whereas**, pursuant to Section 41 of the General Construction Law, the CCELL must have six members in order to constitute a quorum; and

**Whereas**, at the start of the 2011-2013 term in July 2011, with only three elected members and two PA appointees, the CCELL was unable to function since it did not have the six members required for a quorum to convene the meetings necessary to fill its vacancies; and

**Whereas**, via letter of September 30, 2011, Chancellor Walcott, pursuant to his authority under Education Law, appointed Ronald Noble to serve as a trustee for the limited purpose of filling one of the vacancies that existed on the CCELL for the 2011-2012 school year. As soon as one vacancy has been filled, the trustee will no longer serve on the CCELL, and the six members of the CCELL should take the necessary steps to fill the remaining five parent vacancies that exist for the 2011-2012 school year; and

**Whereas**, at a CCELL special meeting held on October 11, 2011, members present and trustee Ronald Noble, appointed a sixth member of the CCELL; and

**Whereas**, steps taken to fill the remaining five parent vacancies have resulted in applications submitted by parents that were deemed not eligible to serve as a member of the CCELL; and

**Whereas**, by virtue of the parent population's assumed limited English proficiency and limited understanding and knowledge of options available for parent participation, experience has shown that the pool of eligible parents is limited; and

**Whereas**, the Law and Chancellor's Regulation D-170, I.A.1. State "Only parents of students now in a bilingual program or ESL program ("ELL students") are eligible to self-nominate for the CCELL."; and

**Whereas**, letter of September 13, 2011 to Chancellor Walcott from the CCELL Public Advocate Appointees asked for the law and chancellor's regulation to be interpreted to mean that parents of students in bilingual/dual language programs who are former ELLs should be eligible, thereby expanding the pool of qualified and informed parents; and



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**Whereas**, at the CPAC meeting of November 10, 2011, members of the CCELL presented information for discussion regarding difficulty in recruiting parents who are eligible to serve; and

**Whereas**, at the November 10 meeting, CCELL members present asked CPAC for support and assistance in reaching out and recruiting parents to serve on the CCELL, including interpretation of the Law and Chancellor's Regulation regarding parent eligibility; and

**Whereas**, at its meeting of January 12, 2012, CPAC passed a resolution in support of interpreting the law and chancellor's regulation to mean that parents of students in bilingual/dual language programs who are former ELLs should be eligible to serve on the CCELL, thereby encouraging more parent participation, and now therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the CCELL fully supports and appreciates CPAC's passage of the resolution referenced above to allow parents of former ELL students to serve on the CCELL, at its meeting of January 12, 2012; and be it further

**Resolved**, that CCELL, working with the NYCDOE and CPAC, will reach out to parents of ELLs in public schools for the purpose of informing and supporting their participation in Parent Associations, and District and Citywide Councils; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the CCELL expects that the NYCDOE will provide appropriate and adequate support, resources and assistance to reach out to the ELL communities, including funding, administration and staff, in all the languages translated by the DOE; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the CCELL looks forward to cooperate, coordinate and work with the NYCDOE to assure that parents exercise all their options to participate in the education of all our children.

Adopted by the Citywide Council on English Language Learners on February 7, 2012

## References:

1. NYS Education Law 2590-B
2. Chancellor's Regulations A660 and D170
3. Ltr of September 30, 2011 from Chancellor Walcott
4. CPAC Resolution of January 12, 2012