

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

RESOLUTION ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Resolution Summary

English Language Learners in our public schools come from more than 400 different language/cultural backgrounds. Some school districts have more than 100 different language groups – but most ELL Students are born in this country. English Language Learners are the fastest growing segment of the public school population. Over the past 15 years, then number of ELL students has nearly doubled, to about five million, with projections showing that by 2015, ELL enrollment will double again to 10 million.

Learning English, or any language, is a long term process. Beginning speakers are likely toned at least four or more years of instruction before achieving proficiency. This means that standardized tests are more often tests of English proficiency than of content knowledge. Many ELL students need four to nine years of instructional support before they are fully proficient and able to perform on par with average, native English-speaking students.

Additional Resource Information

- National Education Association English Language Learner Resources
<http://www.nea.org/tools/30405.htm>
- National Association for Bilingual Education
<http://www.nabe.org/>

CSG Management Directives

Management Directive #1: Promote efforts to support close achievement gaps and support the academic success of English Language Learners.

Management Directive #2: CSG staff will post approved resolution on CSG's website and make available through its regular communication venues at the state and local level to ensure its distribution to the state government and policy community.

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
RESOLUTION ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

WHEREAS, over the past 15 years, the number of ELL students has nearly doubled, to about five million, with projections showing that by 2015, ELL enrollment will double again to 10 million;

WHEREAS, closing achievement gaps between ELL students and their peers requires increased attention to diagnosing their learning needs, supporting their learning, and assessing their progress;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Council of State Governments encourages state policymakers to support English Language Learner students so that they can achieve high levels of proficiency in English as well as in the entire academic curriculum.

Adopted this ____ Day of November, 2009 at the CSG Annual Meeting in La Quinta, California.

Gov. Joe Manchin III
CSG President

Sen. Bart Davis
CSG Chairman