



AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENGLISH LEARNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The State Board of
2 Education shall draft a written bill of rights for parents or guardians of
3 students who are English learners to guarantee that the rights of such
4 parents and students are adequately safeguarded and protected in the
5 provision of bilingual education under chapter 164 of the general
6 statutes. Such bill of rights shall include, but not be limited to, the
7 following declarations:

8 (1) The right of an English learner student to attend a public school
9 in the state regardless of such student's immigration status or the
10 immigration status of such student's parent or guardian;

11 (2) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student to
12 enroll such student in a public school without being required to submit
13 immigration documentation, including, but not limited to, a Social
14 Security number, visa documentation or proof of citizenship;

15 (3) The right of an English learner student to have translation
16 services provided (A) by a certified interpreter who is present in
17 person or available by telephone or through an online technology
18 platform, or (B) through an Internet web site or other electronic

19 application, during critical interactions with teachers and
20 administrators, including, but not limited to, parent-teacher
21 conferences, meetings with administrators of the school in which such
22 student is attending and meetings of or with members of the board of
23 education responsible for educating such student;

24 (4) The right of an English learner student to participate in a
25 program of bilingual education offered by the local or regional board
26 of education when there are twenty or more eligible students classified
27 as dominant in a language other than English as such student, in
28 accordance with the provisions of section 10-17f of the general statutes;

29 (5) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student to
30 receive written notice, in both English and the dominant language of
31 such parent or guardian, that such student is eligible to participate in a
32 program of bilingual education or English as a new language program
33 offered by the local or regional board of education;

34 (6) The right of an English learner student and the parent or
35 guardian of such student to receive a high quality orientation session,
36 in the dominant language of such student and parent or guardian,
37 from the local or regional board of education that provides information
38 relating to state standards, tests and expectations at the school for
39 English learner students, as well as the goals and requirements for
40 programs of bilingual education and English as a new language, prior
41 to participation in such program of bilingual education or English as a
42 new language;

43 (7) The right of the parent or guardian of an English learner student
44 to receive information about the progress of such student's English
45 language development and acquisition;

46 (8) The right of an English learner student and the parent or
47 guardian of such student to meet with school personnel to discuss such
48 student's English language development and acquisition;

49 (9) The right of an English learner student to be placed in a program

50 of bilingual education or English as a new language, if offered by the
51 local or regional board of education;

52 (10) The right of an English learner student to have equal access to
53 all grade-level school programming;

54 (11) The right of an English learner student to have equal access to
55 all core grade-level subject matter;

56 (12) The right of an English learner student to receive annual
57 language proficiency testing;

58 (13) The right of an English learner student to receive support
59 services aligned with any intervention plan that the school or school
60 district provides to all students;

61 (14) The right of an English learner student to be continuously and
62 annually enrolled in a program of bilingual education or English as a
63 new language while such student remains an eligible student, as
64 defined in section 10-17e of the general statutes; and

65 (15) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student
66 to contact the Department of Education with any questions or concerns
67 regarding such student's right to receive English learner services or
68 accommodations available to such student or parent or guardian,
69 including information regarding any recourse for failure of the board
70 of education to provide or ensure such services or accommodations.

71 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school
72 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education providing a
73 program of bilingual education or English as a new language shall (1)
74 provide the parents and guardians of eligible students with a copy of
75 the English learner bill of rights in the dominant language of such
76 parents and guardians, and (2) make such copies of the English learner
77 bill of rights available on the Internet web site of such board.

