



# **English Learner Parent Advisory Council**

## **Information Session**

Monday, December 17, 2018

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Public Schools of Brookline • Office of English Learner Education

# Terms

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ELPAC: English Learner Parent Advisory Council

LOOK Act: Language Opportunities for Our Kids Act

EL: English Learner

ELE: English Learner Education

SEPAC: Special Education Parent Advisory Council

# Background

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- On November 22, 2017, Governor signed a new bill into law.
  - LOOK Act
  - Language Opportunities for Our Kids Act
- Requires input from parents/guardians of English learners regarding language acquisition programs.

# Background

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## LOOK Act

- Districts are required to establish and support an ELPAC if:
  - they have language acquisition programs serving 100 or more English learners,
  - ELs comprise at least 5% of the district's population, or
  - they have schools designated as underperforming.

946

12%

# What is an ELPAC?

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## English Learner Parent Advisory Council

- **Membership**
  - Parents/guardians of current or former English learners
  - Voluntary
  - ELPAC officers
  - Members should include representatives of native languages most commonly spoken by students.
- **General Responsibility**
  - Advise school districts, school committees, and board trustees on matters related to English learners.

# ELPAC Duties

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- Advise school districts, school committees, and boards of trustees on matters to English learners.
- Provide advice or recommendations on topics that parents/guardians believe are important to ELs.
  - Example: ELPACs may advise districts on requests submitted by parents/guardians to establish new language acquisition programs.

# ELPAC Duties

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- Meet regularly with school officials to participate in the planning and development of programs designed to improve educational opportunities for ELs.
- Participate in the review of school improvement plans and district improvement plans as the plans relate to ELs
- Meet at least annually with the School Committee.
- Follows the Open Meeting Law.

# Collaborative Partnerships

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- Student learning and school/district is a shared responsibility between schools and families.
- Partnerships with
  - Community organizations and institutions
    - colleges/universities, businesses, non-profit organizations, libraries
  - Other ELPAC councils
  - Other councils (SEPAC, school councils)
  - Parent Teacher Organizations

# Language Acquisition Programs

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- Sheltered English Immersion
- Dual Language Education
- Two-way Immersion
- Transitional Bilingual Education

# Next Steps

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1. Sign up!
2. Four meetings in 2018-2019
  - a. April
  - b. May
  - c. June
3. Establish Bylaws
  - a. officers and operational procedures

# Bylaws

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- What is the purpose of the ELPAC?
- What is the process to elect officers?
- What are the responsibilities of an ELPAC officer?
- When, where, and how often will the ELPAC meet?
- How can non-ELPAC members participate in ELPAC meetings?

# Contact

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