



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY

TO: P-12 Education Committee
Higher Education Committee

FROM: Angelica Infante-Green

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SUBJECT: Roadmap to College

DATE: October 19, 2015

AUTHORIZATION:

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Staff will provide an update on the creation of parent informational material for the Roadmap to College and information about programs that form connections between secondary schools, colleges and universities.

Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

Proposed Handling

This item will come before the Regents P-12 Education and Higher Education Committees for discussion at the October Regents meeting.

Background Information

Over the past 10 years, New York State English Language Learner (ELL) student enrollment has increased by 20 percent. In New York State, nearly a quarter of a million ELLs make up almost 10 percent of the total public school student population, with even more ELLs enrolled in our private schools. Students in New York State speak over 200 languages, and nearly 45 percent of ELLs were born outside of the United States. This growth has led to the creation and implementation of an initiative developed by the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL), called the Blueprint for English Language Learners' Success.

The Blueprint is utilized as a statewide framework to clarify the expectations and create guidance, resources, and support for administrators, policymakers, districts, schools, and practitioners to prepare ELLs for college and career success. The Blueprint sets out several guiding principles with the goal of ensuring that all ELLs are college and career ready upon graduation. One of these principles is that “[d]istricts and schools value all parents and families of ELLs as partners in education and effectively involve them in the education of their children by:

- Providing parents with resources that enable them to make informed decisions about their children’s education.
- Providing parents with all pertinent information about their rights and program choices in a language and format that parents can easily understand and access.
- Providing training to parents in English and in their home language on effective strategies to support their children’s learning in and out of school.
- Engaging parents as active participants, contributors, and cultural liaisons to the school community.
- Sharing with parents and family members the high expectations that schools have established for the education of all ELLs and engaging them in the pursuit and achievement of those expectations.
- Collaborating with school support personnel and immigrant community-based organizations in order to address the multiple needs of families of ELLs.”

To that end, OBEWL collaborated with The Bronx Institute at Lehman College of The City University of New York to create parent informational materials entitled the *ELL Roadmap to College*. This *Roadmap* is a comprehensive step-by-step guide for ELLs and their parents or guardians on how to prepare and apply to college beginning in middle school and continuing through high school. It advises students on academics, extracurricular activities, and other work that will prepare them for college. Tips on how to be college-ready are also included. The *Roadmap* helps ELLs understand why and how to choose a college education as a goal and the value it affords over a lifetime. Being bilingual is specifically identified as a skill that is valued, and with a college education bilingualism will provide many opportunities for ELLs and their families.

The Office of Higher Education’s Office of Postsecondary Access, Support, and Success administers programs which form connections between secondary schools and colleges and universities. These programs seek to provide academic intervention services, enhanced opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), as well as preparation for postsecondary education, collegiate study including college courses for credit, and specific educational and social supports for students. OBEWL and the Office of Postsecondary Access, Support and Success will continue to work together to create resources and opportunities for all students.