

English Learners Parents Advisory Council (ELPAC)

Presentation:

Progress and Accomplishments

Lawrence Alliance for Education

February 14, 2024

Origin



LOOK Act - signed by Gov. Baker on Nov. 22, 2017.

Requires all school districts and charter schools with certain conditions to establish an ELPAC.

Objectives

- To advise the district on issues related to English Learners (ELs).
- Identify and collect the needs and concerns of parents of English Learners and channel them.

Consolidation ^(1/2)

- Operates under the direction of parents of ELs with district support.
- Only organization or group in the LPS environment run by parents for parents, collecting and channeling their voices.
- Has drafted and/or updated its bylaws.

Lawrence Public School District English Learners Parent Advisory Council

BY-LAWS

Article No. 1. DENOMINATION

The council adopts the denomination or name "English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) of the Lawrence Public School District."

Article No. 2. AUTHORITY

1. The ELPAC of the Lawrence Public School District of Lawrence is formed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 71A, § 6A of the General Laws of Massachusetts, which governs education in the Lawrence Public School District, and the Massachusetts Code of Regulations 603 CMR 14.09, which governs English Learner Parent Advisory Councils.

Article No. 3. PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF ELPAC

1. The purpose of the Lawrence Public School District ELPAC is to advise the school district, school committee and/or the Lawrence Education Alliance (LEA) on issues related to students currently or formerly identified as English Learners (ELs) and to identify and/or collect concerns, ideas and opinions of their parents or guardians related to their academic development and channel them.

2. The functions of the Lawrence Public School District ELPAC are as follows:

Consolidation (2/2)

- Organizes and conducts meetings and events for parents of ELs.
- Has organized and conducted its elections.
- Has co-organized a workshop on the rights of students and their parents.
- Among others.



Meetings

- **ELPAC meetings (the board)** are held monthly, usually on the third Wednesday, at the NCEC (233 Haverhill St.) at 7:00 pm.
- **“ELPAC meetings with Parents”** are held every other month, on a Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. (in person or on Zoom).

Parents Participation

- 1.- A significant number of parents attend ELPAC events.
- 2.- Parents feel comfortable, participate and easily express their concerns.
- 3.- About 335 parents attended the last meeting.



Work in Progress

Currently ELPAC is working on:

- Writing up some recommendations.
- Promoting awareness of the need for effective collaboration between families and schools.

English Learners Parents Advisory Council (ELPAC)



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Questions / Comments