

Our Children, Our Families Council

Summary of the SFUSD District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)

(Last updated 5/5/15)

Goals of the Effort

The purpose of the SFUSD District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC), or subcommittee on English learner education, is to advise the SF Board of Education on programs and services for English learners. DELAC is responsible for advising SFUSD's governing board on at least the following:

1. Development or revision of a district master plan of education programs and services for English learners, taking into consideration the Single School Plans for Student Achievement.
2. Conduct a district-wide needs assessment on a school-by-school basis.
3. Establishment of district program, goals, and objectives for programs and services for English learners (e.g., parental exception waivers and funding).
4. Development of a plan to ensure compliance with any applicable teacher and instructional aide requirements.
5. Administration of the annual language census (R-30 LC Reports) (e.g., procedures and forms.)
6. Review and comment on the district's reclassification procedures.
7. Review and comment on the written notifications required to be sent to parents and guardians

In addition to informing SFUSD's governing board, DELAC also is responsible for disseminating information about programs and services available to ELL students to parents across the district.

Focal Population of the Effort

DELAC is a committee focused on student achievement for English Language Learners (ELLs) in SFUSD. This means students enrolled in the District who are classified as non-native speakers and who have yet to be reclassified as English proficient.

Impact

DELAC considers its greatest achievement to be empowering parents of ELL students across the district. By presenting data on ELL performance in an accessible way to parents, they have been able to advocate for change at the school level. For example, once parents learned that one school's ELL reclassification rates were far lower than those of similar schools, parents voiced their concern and ELL reclassification at the school site increased by over 400% the next year.

Challenges

Consistent parent participation is a continual challenge for DELAC. Parents are pulled in many different directions, and so availability is limited. Moreover, because serving on DELAC is a two-year commitment, turnover becomes a problem to creating a long-term vision for the committee.

Origins of the Effort

Mandated district-level support for English Language Learners dates back to *Lau v. Nichols*, a 1974 Supreme Court case in which the Court determined English learners were entitled to extra, institutionalized supports. San Francisco's DELAC is also required by state law. As outlined in California Education Code sections 35147 (c), 52176 (b) and (c), 62002.5, and 64001 (a), each California public school district, grades kindergarten through 12, with 51 or more English learners must form a District-level English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) or subcommittee of an existing district-wide advisory committee.

Leading the Effort

While DELAC officers play a large role in steering meetings and facilitating events, the most active members of DELAC are the three SFUSD staff members who support DELAC. The Director of SFUSD's Multilingual Pathways Department, Ms. Sang-Yeon Lee, and the DELAC Liaison, Lucia Perez Barrow, manage DELAC.

Members of the Effort

SFUSD's DELAC consists of 10 parents of ELL students in the district and 3 SFUSD support staff, for a total of 13 members. Of the parent members, 4 are internally elected as DELAC Officers, while the remaining 6 serve as regional representatives.

DELAC Officers elected November 20, 2013

Maria Rocha – Chairperson; Cesar Chavez Elementary & Daniel Webster Elementary

Jack Huang – Chairperson; Chinese Immersion at DeAvila Elementary

Chris Gao – Chairperson; Lincoln High School

Elena Angeles – Secretary; Marshall Elementary School

Regional and Language Representatives

Luis Abrego – Mission High School

Olga Reyes – Bryant Elementary School

Juan Sito – A.P. Giannini Middle School & Balboa High School

Laura Navas – Glen Park Elementary School

Julia Sosa – Fairmount Elementary & James Lick Middle School

Karla Melara – Daniel Webster Elementary School

SFUSD Multilingual Pathways Department Staff Support

Lucia Perez Barrow – DELAC Liaison

Selina Tso – DELAC Family Liaison

Sang-Yeon Lee - Director

Structure of the Effort

DELAC hosts five general assemblies each academic year (roughly one every other month) in which they present on a pre-determined topic (often relating to ELL reclassification data, upcoming changes to ELL programs, or DELAC's annual report). A representative from each school site with 21 or more ELL students is supposed to attend and then take information from the assembly back to the school's English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) and families. Attendance of ELAC representatives has been an issue, however, and of the roughly 120 representatives who should attend, only 30 to 50 individuals attend each general assembly meeting. DELAC also convenes every month in between general assemblies to discuss ELL policies in more detail and plan the upcoming general assembly meetings. In addition to general assemblies, DELAC also hosts informational community outreach events in response on an as needed basis in response to ELL community needs.

The Role of Data

One of DELAC's primary responsibilities is tracking ELL performance in SFUSD schools, and reporting that data to parents across the district. Thus, DELAC carefully tracks the number of reclassified students at each school site and the annual progress in California English Language Development Test (CELDT) results by student and school site. DELAC then incorporates this data in its annual report which it present to both the School Board and the community through the general assemblies. DELAC also tracks attendance at its own events and has outreach targets for parent interaction and engagement.

Related Documents

Include a bulleted list of any documents they shared with you that may be relevant to others (strategic plans, etc)

- DELAC webpage within the larger SFUSD website < <http://www.sfusd.edu/en/councils-committees/district-english-learners-advisory-committee.html>>.
- 2014-2015 DELAC Report to SFUSD< [http://www.sfusd.edu/en/assets/sfusd-staff/councils-and-committees/files/DELAC/2014-15.DELAC.Report-Final-English\[1\].pdf](http://www.sfusd.edu/en/assets/sfusd-staff/councils-and-committees/files/DELAC/2014-15.DELAC.Report-Final-English[1].pdf)>.

