
To: The Boston Public Schools English Learner Task Force
Cc: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent; Megan Costello, Senior Advisor, Office of the Superintendent; Corey Harris, Chief of Schools Division
From: Dr. Drew Echelson, Deputy Superintendent of Academics; Farah Assiraj, Deputy Chief Academic Officer and Interim Assistant Superintendent for the Office of English Learners
Date: April 8, 2022
RE: DOJ Para 54 & 55 March Compliance Reporting

BPS March DOJ Report Shows Significant Increase in Overall District Compliance with Support for our English Learners.

In accordance with the Department of Justice (DOJ) Successor Settlement Agreement of April 19, 2012 between the United States of America and the Boston Public Schools, the District submitted the March data reports to the DOJ pursuant to Paragraphs 54 and 55 that demonstrate the level of services provided for our English Learners (ELs) with regard to English as a Second Language (ESL) and Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) core content instruction.

BOSTON – March 2022 – The BPS March 2022 compliance report to the U.S. Department of Justice showed significant overall improvement in services to English Learners (ELs) in the Boston Public Schools (BPS). The district improved compliance across five areas by an average of 21 percentage points between October and March, with a highlight of a 33 percentage point increase in ELs receiving the appropriate amount and type of ESL instruction from an ESL licensed teacher.

Additionally, despite human capital challenges across the District, the percent of ELs whose core content teachers are Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) or Bilingual Education (BEE) endorsed remained steady at 87%. In 53 schools, 90% or more of students are receiving fully compliant ESL instruction (correct type, minutes, grouping, and ESL licensed teacher).

BPS attributes the overall improvement of our compliance to the school input being provided by the Language Assessment Team Facilitators (LATF) in a timely manner for the March reporting. Additionally, after each DOJ reporting period (October, December, March) BPS implemented an

action plan for the Office of English Learners (OEL) to identify the root cause and take action with our schools not meeting the threshold of 90% above compliance. BPS made improvements to the system of communication and continues to work directly with schools managing challenges with staffing. OEL will continue to work in partnership with our school leaders, Language Assessment Team Facilitators and school superintendents to ensure that BPS maintains the progress made so that all schools move to meeting all compliance areas.

The overall data from October 2021 to March 2022 on these important compliance markers can be found in the following table:

Compliance Category	October 2021	December 2021	March 2022
<i>% of English Learners (ELs) whose English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses have an Approved Instruction Type</i>	73%	86%	88%
<i>% of (ELs) whose Teachers of ESL are All ESL Certified</i>	80%	91%	93%
<i>% of ELs who are Receiving the Appropriate Amount of Weekly ESL Minutes</i>	76%	89%	92%
<i>% of ELs who are Correctly Grouped for All ESL Courses</i>	56%	84%	85%
<i>% of ELs with Appropriate ESL Instruction Type, Teachers, Minutes and Grouping</i>	41%	70%	74%
<i>% of ELs whose core content teachers are all Sheltered English Immersion Endorsed (SEI) or Bilingual Education Endorsed (BEE)</i>	88%	87%	87%

As BPS accelerates efforts to improve data collection, the district has started a new EL-centered Data Management System to increase timeliness and accuracy of data, added professional development for schools on how to input data and schedule for ESL services, and is increasing staff capacity to oversee accurate data at a school and district level. The Office of Human Capital is working with OEL to build a pathway for teachers to gain permanent ESL licensures and solve for unexpected vacancies through retirement and leaves. There have been multiple prep courses this Spring which will continue throughout the Summer.



Although BPS is proud of these compliance wins, we recognize that we have persistent issues in collecting valid data, especially with October reporting and staffing capacity, especially at our Secondary Schools. Staff who are in charge of collecting valid data on our EL compliance are often juggling multiple responsibilities, including teaching and other roles. OEL is working to creatively solve problems of practice through innovative solutions by:

- Developing an EL-centered Data Management System that will be more user-friendly, intuitive, efficient and more accurately capture data;
- Providing targeted support at schools and variety of professional development to meet the needs of LATFs, School Leaders, and relevant school personnel on designing schedules, inputting data, and developing school level capacity to self-monitor ESL services;
- Continuing to develop a district strategy with the Office of Human Capital, the Office of Recruitment, Cultivation and Diversity to increase educator workforce in meeting ESL and SEI requirements at schools.

Boston Public Schools
Dr. Brenda Cassellius,
Superintendent

Boston School Committee
Jeri Robinson, Chair

City of Boston
Michelle Wu, Mayor

