
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5239

AN ACT CONCERNING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires each local and regional board of education, beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, to offer any English language learner student reasonable accommodations on testing, assessments, and other school work. Under the bill, accommodations may include, among other things, additional time to complete school work, tests, or assessments in a student's native language, and a bilingual education or English as a second language program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

English as a Second Language and Bilingual Education Programs

By law, an "English as a second language program" is one that uses only English as the eligible students' instructional language and enables them to achieve English proficiency and academic mastery of subject matter content and higher order skills, including critical thinking, to meet appropriate grade promotion and graduation requirements.

Additionally, a "program of bilingual education" is one that:

1. makes instructional use of both English and an eligible student's native language;
2. enables eligible students to achieve English proficiency and academic mastery of subject matter content and higher order skills, including critical thinking, to meet appropriate grade promotion and graduation requirements;
3. provides for the continuous increase in the use of English and

corresponding decrease in the use of the native language for instruction purposes within each year and from year to year, and provides for the use of English for more than half of the instructional time by the end of the first year;

4. may also develop eligible students' native language skills; and
5. may include English-proficient students' participation if the program is designed to enable all enrolled students to become more proficient in English and a second language (CGS § 10-17e).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Change of Reference - ED
Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/10/2022)

Education Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 39 Nay 0 (03/25/2022)