



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6663**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENGLISH LEARNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2023*) (a) The State Board of  
2 Education shall draft a written bill of rights for parents or guardians of  
3 students who are English learners to guarantee that the rights of such  
4 parents and students are adequately safeguarded and protected in the  
5 provision of bilingual education under chapter 164 of the general  
6 statutes. Such bill of rights shall include, but not be limited to, the  
7 following declarations:

8 (1) The right of an English learner student to attend a public school  
9 in the state regardless of such student's immigration status or the  
10 immigration status of such student's parent or guardian;

11 (2) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student to  
12 enroll such student in a public school without being required to submit  
13 immigration documentation, including, but not limited to, a Social  
14 Security number, visa documentation or proof of citizenship;

15 (3) The right of an English learner student to have translation  
16 services provided (A) by a certified interpreter who is present in  
17 person or available by telephone or through an online technology  
18 platform, or (B) through an Internet web site or other electronic

19 application, during critical interactions with teachers and  
20 administrators, including, but not limited to, parent-teacher  
21 conferences, meetings with administrators of the school in which such  
22 child is attending and meetings of or with members of the board of  
23 education responsible for educating such child;

24 (4) The right of an English learner student to participate in a  
25 program of bilingual education offered by the local or regional board  
26 of education when there are twenty or more eligible students classified  
27 as dominant in a language other than English as such student, in  
28 accordance with the provisions of section 10-17f of the general statutes;

29 (5) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student to  
30 receive written notice, in both English and the dominant language of  
31 such parent or guardian, that such student is eligible to participate in a  
32 program of bilingual education or English as a new language program  
33 offered by the local or regional board of education;

34 (6) The right of an English learner student and the parent or  
35 guardian of such student to receive a high quality orientation session,  
36 in the dominant language of such student and parent or guardian,  
37 from the local or regional board of education that provides information  
38 relating to state standards, tests and expectations at the school for  
39 English learner students, as well as the goals and requirements for  
40 programs of bilingual education and English as a new language, prior  
41 to participation in such program of bilingual education or English as a  
42 new language;

43 (7) The right of the parent or guardian of an English learner student  
44 to receive information about the progress of such student's English  
45 language development and acquisition;

46 (8) The right of an English learner student and the parent or  
47 guardian of such student to meet with school personnel to discuss such  
48 student's English language development and acquisition;

49 (9) The right of an English learner student to be placed in a program

50 of bilingual education or English as a new language, if offered by the  
51 local or regional board of education;

52 (10) The right of an English learner student to have equal access to  
53 all grade-level school programming;

54 (11) The right of an English learner student to have equal access to  
55 all core grade-level subject matter;

56 (12) The right of an English learner student to receive annual  
57 language proficiency testing;

58 (13) The right of an English learner student to receive support  
59 services aligned with any intervention plan that the school or school  
60 district provides to all students;

61 (14) The right of an English learner student to be continuously and  
62 annually enrolled in a program of bilingual education or English as a  
63 new language while such student remains an eligible student, as  
64 defined in section 10-17e of the general statutes; and

65 (15) The right of a parent or guardian of an English learner student  
66 to contact the Department of Education with any questions or concerns  
67 regarding such student's right to receive English learner services or  
68 accommodations available to such student or parent or guardian,  
69 including information regarding any recourse for failure of the board  
70 of education to provide or ensure such services or accommodations.

71 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2024, and each school  
72 year thereafter, each local and regional board of education providing a  
73 program of bilingual education or English as a new language shall (1)  
74 provide the parents and guardians of eligible students with a copy of  
75 the English learner bill of rights in the dominant language of such  
76 parents and guardians, and (2) make such copies of the English learner  
77 bill of rights available on the Internet web site of such board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2023</i>	New section
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**ED**

*Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

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