

## Oyanadel, Werner

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**From:** Nilda Aponte <nilda@allourkin.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 5:25 PM  
**To:** Oyanadel, Werner  
**Subject:** Bilingual Education

Hello,

I hope all is well. I just read the article on GBLN about this issue. I'd love to say that I'm happy this is happening.

My story: very briefly - I came to CT 10 years ago from PR. My twins were 4 years old at the time and fluent in spanish only. They started pre-school. One day, one of my son's teacher was upset because he believed my son was ignoring him and not following directions. I said, he probably doesn't understand what you're saying. He then said, no he understands, I just think he's doing this on purpose. My son, probably picked up a few words here and there but ever since he started talking, spanish was the only language he knew. Ever since, my son refused to speak spanish in school and little by little wanted to do the same at home.

Today, he's 15 yrs old and attends 9th grade. He understands spanish only because we continue to speak to him and my family when he visits PR. His school only teaches french and arabic, which is great but he wants to learn more spanish. I feel this country doesn't understand that spanish is pretty much the second most spoken in USA and third in the world.

Thanks so much for this opportunity. Have a blessed weekend!

Nilda Aponte  
New Haven, CT