City of Boston
In City Council

Resolution in Support of
House Bill 486 "Proficiency of English Language Learners"

By
Councillors Chuck Turner and Felix G. Arroyo
Connolly, Murphy, Linehan, LaMattina, Feeney, Pressley, Tobin, Ross and Yancey

Whereas, English Language Learners (ELL) throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have higher dropout rates than any other group; and

Whereas, in 2007, the dropout rate for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students was 10.4% compared to 3.6 for non-LEP students; and

Whereas, MCAS results from the Class of 2008 show that while 95% of native English speaking students earned their Competency Determination (CD), only 57% of LEP students and 65% of former LEP students earned it; and

Whereas, House Bill 486 "Proficiency of English Language Learners" is designed to foster state wide improvement of English Language Learner performance by providing flexibility to districts in the design of their ELL programs; by assuring accountability of those systems; and by requiring parental involvement in the monitoring of each district's ELL program; and

Whereas, statewide school district accountability will enhanced by requiring each district with an ELL program to file each year with the Education Commissioner data on testing, attendance, dropout rates, curricula assessment, as well as source and amount of funds expended on ELL; and

Whereas, the bill assures parental involvement by requiring every district with an ELL program for 20 or more students in any 1 language group to establish a parent advisory Council, comprised of parents or legal guardians of students who are enrolled in ELL programs in the district; and

Whereas, the bill attempts to assure statewide support for all ELL students by requiring that every limited English proficient student enrolled in a public school system shall participate in an ELL Program established by the school district in which the student resides. Therefore Be It,

Resolved, that the Boston City Council urges that the Boston Delegation in the Massachusetts State Legislature put its full support behind the passage of House Bill 486.

Filed: April 14, 2010