



Resolution to Protect English Language Learner Students

WHEREAS, receiving a sound basic education is a constitutional right, and failing to provide it is unconstitutional and has more significant negative impacts for students of color, students from economically disadvantaged families, students with disabilities, and English Language Learners (“ELL”);

WHEREAS, English Language Learners are among the least likely to be on grade level academically of any subgroup in North Carolina according to state testing; are the least likely to be on grade level in Orange County Schools; and can be excluded from participating in standard-based tests when proper accommodations are not provided;

WHEREAS, Orange County Schools currently has 827 English Language Learners, who speak thirty-four languages, enrolled in Orange County Schools.

WHEREAS, English Language Learners can experience high levels of discrimination in schools based on race, language, accent, and country of origin and are more likely to experience mental health struggles;

WHEREAS, English Language Learners and their families still hesitate to speak their mother tongue in public settings due to how they have been historically discriminated against;

WHEREAS, this Board has recognized the importance of taking intentional steps to ensure access to a sound basic education, and is actively working towards meeting the goals set forth in the district’s strategic plan;

WHEREAS, the Orange County Schools' strategic plan has recognized equity as a central focus in its goals, among which are to decrease achievement gaps and increase achievement of all students, to increase diversity of district staff, and to provide an inclusive environment where all students have a sense of belonging;

WHEREAS, this Board in Board Policy 1030 describes its aim to eliminate racial discrimination, inequities of opportunity, and academic disparities in the district, whilst promoting schools as centers for culturally diverse learning where all students are educated to their fullest potential;

WHEREAS, this Board is in agreement with and passed a resolution to fully support the approval and implementation of the Leandro Plan and recognizes that adequate education cannot be provided in an environment that does not reject all forms of discrimination;



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WHEREAS, the Orange County Schools Board of Education stands ready to address the struggles of English Language Learners as one of the groups with the greatest needs and challenges to meet their full potential;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board celebrates the strengths and assets that English Language Learners' families bring to our diverse school communities, and supports school efforts to build strong partnerships with the families of English Language Learners as a core part of our child-centered approach to education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Orange County Schools will identify strategies that are most effective for serving English Language Learners and will then incorporate them into the instructional framework for all content areas, to include such components as Effective Instruction and Academic, Social Emotional, and Post-Secondary Support; Family and Community Engagement; and Professional Development;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Orange County Schools will regularly monitor and report on the effectiveness of the strategies being implemented for each component of Effective Instruction and Academic, Social Emotional, and Post-Secondary Support; Family and Community Engagement; and Professional Development, and engage in continual improvement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board will continue to respect, support and promote inclusive environments for English Language Learners within Orange County Schools' facilities and spaces, and will continue to work tirelessly to eliminate any form of injustice in our schools, including against English Language Learners;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board welcomes open conversations, activities, cultural events and all expressions of unity that help to address the needs of ELL students.

Adopted by the Orange County Board of Education this the _____ of _____, 2021.

Carrie Doyle, Chair
Orange County Board of Education

Dr. Monique Felder, Superintendent
Orange County Schools