

EL Task Force Subcommittee Reports For February 25, 2021 Meeting

Priority 1: LOOK Act

At the 2/17/21 meeting of the Priority #1 subcommittee, we heard from Silvia that she will present OEL's proposal to address the BPS strategic plan goals around the LOOK Act implementation and deliverables. We shared with her our concerns about the School Committee's "goals and guardrails," specifically the one about ELLs learning English (without addressing broader goals).

We spent the rest of the hour using the ELLTF feedback to revise the EL Student Vision Statement. We will share a final draft at the February ELLTF meeting.

Priority 2: ELSWD Subcommittee

Follow-up to Feb. 4, 2020 Meeting and Agenda for Next Meeting

At the ELSWD Subcommittee meeting of Feb. 4, 2021, we discussed the following follow-up issues that will also serve as the basis of the agenda for the next meeting.

1. Parent feedback on current issues about remote and in-school instruction and support. (Roxi said that there was still confusion among parents about access to 2- and 4-day programs.)
2. IEP Checklist update after Feb 24 staff meeting with goal of developing final checklist.
3. Bilingual Sped Position hiring – Update. Progress on hiring second staff person. (Ethan suggested that the draft job description developed by the subcommittee provided the basis for a final version of the job. He said a posting for the job should be completed in 6 weeks to two months. Members of the subcommittee have urged that OSE/OEL act sooner, given the urgency of the situation in making progress for ELSWD students.)
4. Staffing issues: A broader discussion of the recruitment, hiring, and development of teachers and other staff to provide instruction and support for ELSWD (and EL) students. It was agreed that the subcommittee discussion would benefit from representation from the Schools division, since school leaders and their Personnel Subcommittees do most hiring (and evaluation) of teachers in BPS.
5. Guidance document. Update and review latest draft (which is now being edited).
6. OEL plans update. (Silvia reported that OEL is developing multi-level plans for the LOOK Act, K-6 redesign, 7-12 redesign, including provisions for access to native language and ELSWD students. Initial drafts would be available for stakeholder and public engagement beginning February and until April.)

7. Budgeting. (There are two issues: 1) What was discovered about the adequacy of staffing for ELSWD students from the Probable Org meetings; and 2) can OSE/OEL develop program models for ELSWD students of the basis of which Finance can develop budgets for these student, in addition to or separate from the current double allocation of EL and Special Education funding for these students.)
8. Follow-up on other ELSWDs Priorities

Priority 3: Monitoring

The Monitoring Subcommittee met on February 1 and discussed which members would be able to commit to which priority areas. Priorities discussed were monitoring: hybrid and remote learning, BuildBPS planning and implementation, student outcomes, and budget.

Members prepared and sent the below budget-related questions to Nate Kuder:

- What are the assumptions used to develop ELL enrollment projections?
- What evaluation/evidence is there that the Weighted Student Funding formulas for ELLs are appropriate and effective?
- Are there now program designs for ELSWD students which the budget staff can use in the Weighted Student Funding formula in developing school budgets?
- What information do we have from the Probable Org meetings about how schools are currently using the double allocation they now receive for ELSWD students for instruction and support services? And what information have we learned about the staffing and funding needs of schools to provide instruction and support for these students?
- What is the Budget Guidance on ELL students and ELSWD students that was sent to school leaders as they prepared their school budgets?