

New School Year:

Same Rights for English Learners and Same Responsibilities for Schools

There has been an unprecedented attack on access, equity, and inclusion for students and for those within school communities broadly. **But the rights of students who are English Learners (ELs) are unchanged.** Despite the attacks on students, we know that parents, educators, and school leaders want kids to feel that they belong, and to ensure they have a fair shot to reach their potential. As we start a new academic year, we want to be clear that schools have legal responsibilities to students who are ELs, as well as to parents and guardians who have limited English proficiency (LEP).

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 both require schools to ensure that students who are ELs can access public education and that schools ensure meaningful communication with parents and guardians. Among other responsibilities, schools must:

- ✓ Provide appropriate language assistance services to students who are ELs so they become proficient in English and can participate equally and meaningfully in standard instruction within a reasonable period of time;
- ✓ Provide qualified personnel and sufficient resources to effectively implement their chosen programs for students who are ELs;
- ✓ Promptly identify students in need of language assistance services and use a valid and reliable assessment to determine students' proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing English; and
- ✓ Ensure meaningful communication in a language they can understand with parents and guardians who have LEP (e.g., by providing accurate written translation or oral interpretation to parents and guardians).

Additional guidance on the rights of students who are ELs and the responsibilities of school communities is available here:

- [The Rights of Students Who are English Learners: FAQ for Educators](#)
- [The Rights of Students Who are English Learners: FAQ for Students, Families, and Community Leaders](#)
- [Know Your Rights: English Learners](#)
- Webinar- [Equipped and Empowered: Educating English Learners](#)
- Webinar- [English Learner Rights: A Conversation for Community Advocates](#)

Resources available in languages other than English:

- [Spanish/ En español](#)
- [Arabic / عربي](#)
- [Chinese \(Simplified\) / 中文 \(简\)](#)
- [Chinese \(Traditional\) / 中文 \(繁\)](#)
- [Hmong](#)
- [Korean / 한국어](#)
- [Tagalog](#)
- [Urdu / اُردو](#)
- [Vietnamese / Tiếng Việt](#)