

# English Learning Opportunities for All

## Support An Act Relative to Enhancing English Opportunities for all Students in the Commonwealth

Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez (House Bill #1065)  
Sen. Sal DiDomenico (Senate Bill #197)

### Purpose:

Enhance the opportunities for **Limited English Proficient (LEP)** students in Massachusetts' public schools by developing oral comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of English, while also meeting academic standards under the State's curriculum framework.

### How will the Act work?

- Require districts with significant LEP students (20 or more in any one language group) to offer more than basic ESOL
- Give school districts the flexibility of which English language programs to offer
- Require annual student evaluation creation of individualized success plans and program extension as necessary
- Strengthens qualification requirements of ESL teachers
- Parental involvement via visits, conferences, committees, parents choice of enrollment in English Language Learner (ELL) programs

*Increased variety of ELL programs and parental input will enable the students to participate effectively in regular or advanced educational extracurricular programs*



## 3 fundamental proposals to improve the quality of ELL education

Programmatic flexibility

Accountability

Parental Involvement

During academic year 2009, more than **147,000** students in Massachusetts spoke English as a second language—up by 20 percent from a decade earlier. Of those, **57,000** lacked English proficiency—over a quarter more than in 1999.

*Since Massachusetts eliminated bilingual education in 2002, Limited English Proficiency students were left behind:*

- LEP students are **9 times more likely to dropout.** (10.4%)
- The current 'one-size-fits-all' model for English language learners will continue to disadvantage LEP students who are increasingly coming from diverse linguistic and cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds
- LEP students fared worse than their English-proficient peers in terms of **school engagement**



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