



9/30/21

Dear Families of English Language Learners and Former English Language Learners,

ELPAC is the Parent Advisory Council for families of English Learners. The purpose of this council is to provide families with an opportunity to provide input to the school district as well as for the school district to

increase parent involvement in our program. We are excited to offer this opportunity for you to meet with us and share your concerns, ideas, and feedback regarding how we can improve the delivery of services to our students who are English Learners/multilingual or whose families are multilingual.

We will be holding three Parent Advisory Meetings this year. The first meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 12, 2021** and will be held at **Park Avenue School's Library at 6 PM**. Please use the Ray St. Entrance on the upper level.

*This meeting is for all families of ELs and Former ELs (FELs), including families of students who have Opted Out of English Language Education. Even if your child does not attend Park Avenue Elementary School--it is just the location of this first meeting.*

The other meetings will be held in **January and April**. Reminders will be sent to you prior to these meeting dates.

We look forward to meeting you and to your participation in our program!

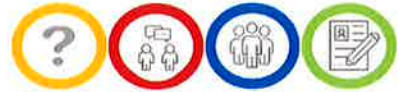
Sincerely Yours,

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Ruthann Petruno-Goguen, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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Patricia Mackay, Ed.D.  
Director of English Language Learners



## The LOOK Act and English Learner Parent Advisory Councils (ELPACs)

On November 22, 2017, Governor Baker signed into law the Language Opportunity for Our Kids Act (LOOK Act). The goal of this new law is to improve the education of English learners (ELs). The law has created more opportunities for input from parents and guardians of English learners in language acquisition programs.



### What are ELPACs?

English learner parent advisory councils are made up of parents and legal guardians of English learners.



### How can I get involved?

Membership is voluntary and is open to all parents and legal guardians of students who are or have been identified as English learners.



### Who is required to create and support ELPACs?

School districts or charter schools with 100 or more English learners or in which English learners comprise 5% of the student body, whichever is less, are required to establish ELPACs. Schools designated as underperforming or chronically underperforming must also establish ELPACs.

### What are the duties of ELPACs?

ELPAC duties include but are not limited to:



- Creating by-laws (rules) regarding officers and operational procedures;
- Advising the school district, school committee, and board of trustees on matters related to English learners;
- Meeting regularly with school or district leaders to participate in the planning and development of programs to improve educational opportunities for English learners;
- Advising the district or school on any new proposed language acquisition programs;
- Reviewing district and school improvement plans as they relate to English learners; and
- Meeting at least annually with the school committee or school council.

The success of ELPACs depends on building supportive and trusting collaborative partnerships among and between parents, school staff and leaders, and community members. Please go to <http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/look-act.html> for more information on ELPACs.