**English Learner Education (ELE) Proposed Regulations and the LOOK Act / Parent Outreach**

**What is the LOOK Act?**

* The **L**anguage **O**pportunities for **O**ur **K**ids **Act** is designed to improve the education of English learners (ELs) and other students.

**Proposed LOOK Act Regulations**

* English Learner Parent Advisory Councils (603 CMR 14.09)
* English Learner Programs (603 CMR 14.04)
* Bilingual Education Endorsement (603 CMR 7.14 and 7.15)
* State Seal of Biliteracy (603 CMR 31.07)
1. **English Learner Parent Advisory Councils (ELPAC)**
* Districts that require an EL Parent Advisory Council are those with 100 or more English learners or where English learners comprise 5% of the student body
* Schools that require an EL Parent Advisory Council are those that have ELE programs and are underperforming or chronically underperforming.
* The council shall receive assistance from the ELE Director or other appropriate school personnel as designated by the Superintendent.
* ELPAC duties include but are not limited to:
	+ Create by-laws (rules) regarding officers and operational procedures,
	+ Advise the school district, school committee, and board of trustees on matters related to English learners,
	+ Meet regularly with school or district leaders to participate in the planning and development of programs to improve educational opportunities for English learners
	+ Advise the district on any new ELE programs before they are submitted for approval
	+ Participate in the review of district and school improvement plans as they relate to English learners, and
	+ Meet at least annually with the school committee or school council.
1. **English Learner Programs: Proposed Regulations**
* Proposed regulations establish the process that districts and the Department would use when a district applies to offer a new Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) program OR an alternative English learner education program.
* Proposed regulations also specify the process a district would follow when a parent/guardian requests to enroll or transfer an English learner into an English learner education program offered by the district.

**Review Process for New ELE Programs Requirements: LOOK Act**

* Districts that wish to operate a new SEI or alternative ELE program must submit information required to the Department.
* The Department has 90 days to review the information submitted and notify the district in writing whether the program fails to meet federal and state law requirements.
* There are two possible outcomes based on the Department’s review:
	+ The district can begin the proposed program.
	+ If required, the district will have 30 days to submit a revised proposal incorporating the feedback to bring the program into compliance.
* The Department will then review the revised proposal and determine whether the district can start implementing the program.

**Parental Requests for an ELE Program**

* A parent can request to enroll or transfer their student into another ELE program in the district. This is ultimately the Superintendent’s decision.
* Parents of 20 or more students may request the implementation of a new ELE district program. This is ultimately the Superintendent’s decision.
* Districts must respond within 90 days after receiving the request and provide:
	+ - a plan for implementation of the requested program; or
		- a denial of the request, in writing, including an explanation of the denial.

**3. Bilingual Education Endorsement; Proposed Regulations**

* Proposed regulations clarify the requirements to earn a Bilingual Education endorsement.
* Proposed regulations specify which educators will need the SEI or Bilingual Education endorsements.
* Proposed regulations allow the Commissioner to issue a one-year waiver of the Bilingual Education Endorsement requirements under certain circumstances.

**4. State Seal of Biliteracy: Proposed Regulations**

 Proposed regulations describe the process and criteria for earning the State Seal of Biliteracy.

 **Seal of Biliteracy Proposed Criteria**

1. Meets all graduation requirements.
2. Demonstrates a high level of proficiency in English as measured by MCAS.
3. Demonstrates a high level of proficiency in a foreign language by attaining a minimum score on a nationally recognized and readily available assessment or an alternative evidence method established by the Department.

**For Comments, please see the information below:**

Written comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted by mail to: **Sibel Hughes, OELAAA, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148**; by fax to**: 781-338-3395**; or by email to: **LOOKAct@doe.mass.edu**.

The following link may also be used to submit public comment on the proposed revisions: Proposed Amendments to English Learner Education Regulations: [Public Comment Survey](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4216987/Proposed-Amendments-to-English-Learner-Education-Regulations-Public-Comment-Survey). The deadline for submission of public comment is **Friday, May 18, 2018**. The Board is expected to vote on the proposed amendments to the regulations at its regular monthly meeting scheduled for **June 26, 2018.**