

April 2003

Dear Families,

As you are aware, voters in the Commonwealth passed Question 2, *An Act Relative to the Teaching of English in Public Schools*. As a result of this new law, the BPS has redefined the programs available for English Language Learners and introduced a waiver provision as required by the law. Included you will find a description of the BPS Programs for English Language Learners as well as a sample waiver form should you choose an Alternative Bilingual Program such as Transitional Bilingual Learning [formerly Transitional Bilingual Education], Two-Way Bilingual and Native Language Literacy for your child.

If your child is 10 years old or older and you believe that one of these programs: Transitional Bilingual Learning [formerly Transitional Bilingual Education], Two-Way Bilingual or Native Language Literacy is better suited for your child's educational development in learning the English language as well as in their content courses, you can request this program by completing a Waiver Request Form for the 2003-2004 school year.

Next year, the BPS will have Centers for English Language Learners in 23 schools, which will offer Transitional Bilingual Learning. A list of those schools is attached. If your child is in one of the schools that will be a Center for English Language Learners, he or she may be able to choose from one of the Programs for English Language Learners at that school. If your child is not in one of the Centers, he or she will have to move to one of the Centers in the list in order to participate in a Transitional Bilingual Learning Program.

If your son/daughter is already in the BPS you may go to your school and ask that the principal explain the program choices and the process for requesting a waiver. If your son/daughter does not attend the BPS, you may go to one of the three Family Resource Centers where staff will be able to answer your questions and guide you through the process. The phone numbers of the Family Centers are as follows: North Zone (617) 635-6547; East Zone (617) 635-8015; West Zone (617) 635-8040.

Once your waiver is approved, the BPS will be assigned your child to a Center for English Language Learners. If you have any questions, please contact us. We will help you decide what is best for your child.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Payzant
Superintendent

**BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WAIVER REQUEST FOR 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR**

English Language Learners 10 Years of Age or Older

As provided by Question 2 Section 5b-2

Student Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____
Last First Middle Month/Day/Year

Student #: _____ **Language:** _____ **IEP?** Yes No

I, as the parent or guardian of this student who is 10 years of age or older, believe that Transitional Bilingual Learning Program is better suited for my child's educational development in learning the English language as rapidly and effectively as possible as well as making adequate progress in the content area courses.

I have visited the school where I have been provided with a full description of all Programs for English Language Learners offered at the Boston Public Schools in a language I could understand as well as of the educational materials used in these programs.

I understand that I must request that this waiver be reconsidered each school year.

Signature of parent/guardian

Printed name of parent/guardian

Date of School Visit

Current School: _____ **ELL Program** _____ **Grade** _____

FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

WAIVER APPROVED

Signature of Principal/Headmaster or Educational Staff

Date

*Forward this signed Waiver Request to Office of Language Learning and Support Services.
Provide the parent a copy and place a copy in the Student's Language Development Folder.*

WAIVER DENIED

Signature of Principal/Headmaster or Educational Staff

Date

The original Waiver Request and supporting materials will be retained at the school until further review. The school must notify parents of the denial by sending them a signed copy of this form. A copy must also be sent to the Office of Language Learning and Support Services