



2016 NACSA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Smarter Strategies for Serving English Language Learners

The needs of English Language Learners (ELLs), and associated policy around serving these students, can present a challenge for authorizers and school leaders alike. What is the role of the authorizer in monitoring how ELLs are being served in their schools? How can authorizers ensure their schools are following the letter of the law in working with ELLs? Join Civil Rights Solutions in learning about new resources geared toward helping authorizers strike this balance and best serve ELLs.

Session Title: Smarter Strategies for Serving English Language Learners

Session speakers: Renita Thukral (Civil Rights Solutions)
Lauren Baum (Civil Rights Solutions)

Context: *(In what context was this information presented? Workshop? Panel discussion? What were the goals of the session?)*

The session was organized as an interactive presentation interwoven with Q&A throughout. (The presenters also asked attendees at the beginning of the session what burning questions they had or what they most wanted to learn, to help the presenters prioritize the many topics they could address in the time given.)

The session objectives were to:

- Provide an overview of the federal legal framework applicable to enrolling and serving ELLs;
- Examine how ESSA may impact that federal legal framework;
- Discuss trends in state statutory and regulatory development specific to recruiting, retaining and educating ELLs;
- Discuss increasing scrutiny, investigation and resolution agreements from OCR; and
- Brainstorm effective outreach strategies such as the tailored use of weighted lotteries.



Key Takeaways: *(Please provide 3 key takeaways from your session. What points do you want to reinforce with attendees? If they learned 3 things from the session, what should they be?)*

1. Authorizers have a meaningful role in overseeing the education of ELLs in charter schools through the charter application, charter contract, monitoring, evaluation and renewal; and in providing necessary guidance and information to enable schools to meet their obligations in serving ELL students.
2. Authorizer oversight includes ensuring that charter schools are meeting key obligations to serving ELLs, particularly: a) appropriately identifying and assessing ELLs; b) providing an educationally sound program to serve ELLs; and c) periodically evaluating the effectiveness of the program in serving students' learning needs.
3. Authorizers are also responsible for ensuring that charter schools: a) monitor the educational progress of ELL students who opt out of the ELL program, and b) appropriately exit students from the program and monitor exited students' progress for at least 2 years post exit.

Additional Resources: *(Where can attendees receive additional information? Resources on the Knowledge Core? Other publications? NACSA consulting services or other member benefits? These will be published on the website alongside the PowerPoint and any handouts you send me, so no need to attach those resources. However, feel free to share links to pages on the NACSA website, contact information for speakers/facilitators, links to topical news articles or videos you may have shared, etc.)*

The presenters are developing a NACSA toolkit to help authorizers be more knowledgeable and effective in overseeing services to ELLs. Contact the presenters with any questions or topics you would like to see addressed in the toolkit (to be published next year).

Presenter contact info:

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