

Guiding Principles for Settlement

1. HPS's counsel and Plaintiff's counsel agree to work cooperatively to resolve the issues in the case. HPS will provide Plaintiff's counsel with the opportunity to comment on draft written policies and practices relating to interpretation and translation services for limited English proficient parents. Once finalized, HPS agrees to implement such policies and procedures as soon as practicable. Such cooperative efforts between counsel include, but are not limited to, sharing data on progress on eliminating the backlog of IEP documents to be translated, and other data regarding implementation of any agreement. The parties anticipate that they will ultimately agree to an order dismissing the action, subject to their final agreement governing policies and practices toward limited English proficient students and their parents and guardians. .
2. In exchange for Defendants' agreement to enact policies and procedures, Plaintiff agrees to postpone indefinitely its pursuit of a preliminary injunction and to withdraw its motion upon completion of a mutually satisfactory policy statement and implementation plan.
3. HPS policies and procedures will include:
 - a. At the time children are enrolled in HPS and at least once annually, HPS will survey families to determine their need for interpretation and translation services;
 - b. HPS will provide LEP parents accurate and timely translations of vital educational documents;
 - c. HPS will continue to translate into Spanish all documents related to education programs provided on its website;
 - d. At all scheduled meetings between school staff and LEP parents which involve important educational events, HPS will provide competent interpreters, and will provide translations of IEP reports to be discussed at such meetings, if any, within the same time frame such documents are provided to English-speaking parents;
 - e. HPS will not use LEP parents' children, other students, siblings or friends, or staff members involved in the child's education as interpreters in Special Education related meetings, or other meetings, interviews or hearings that have due process-type purposes. HPS may use as interpreters, if otherwise competent, staff members involved in a child's education in other appropriate circumstances, such as parent-teacher conferences and other informational meetings or presentations;
 - f. HPS will communicate to, and train, staff regarding the purposes and provisions of the written policies and procedures concerning multi-lingual services to LEP parents; and
 - g. HPS will make available to the school population an appropriate description of the written policies and procedures implemented to provide multilingual services to LEP parents.

4. Counsel has worked cooperatively to draft a Notice to Parents that HPS has sent to all families, seeking each family's preferred language for school-to-parent communications, and a plan for disseminating the Notice and recording responses.
5. Counsel agree to work cooperatively to achieve a settlement which embodies these guiding principles.

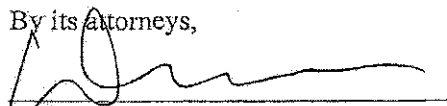
PADRES LATINOS DE LAS ESCUELAS
DE SPRINGFIELD Y HOLYOKE

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
EDUCATION; MASSACHUSETTS
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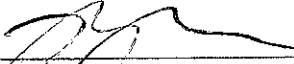

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