



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice of Regular Meeting of the District English Language Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC)

Monday, November 14, 2024 — 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. [Zoom Meeting](#)

Attendees: DELAC Representatives: See roll call item #3 & District Staff:

Johanna De La Rosa-BCL Samohi, Maria Leon-Vasquez- School Board Representative, Nallely Gutierrez-BCL Lincoln/Olympic, Monica Limon-Translator, Deborah Lukic-Family Engagement, Alicia Mignano-School Board Representative, Patrick Miller-Director, Florencia Rams-BCL Franklin/Grant, Maria Salazar-BCL JAMS, Elena Uliantzeff-BCL Roosevelt/SMASH, Flory Vila, BCL-Will Rogers, Dr. Stacy Williams - Assistant Superintendent.

1. Started at 9:05 a.m. Welcome, Introductions and Expressions of Appreciations (Dr. Williamson)
2. EL Master Plan (40 min) Patrick Miller
 - Update on ELPAC & Review Mandated Written Notifications to Parents

While awaiting enough members to be present to call a quorum, Dr. Williamson launched the meeting with Patrick Miller's presentation on a portion of SMMUSD's EL Master Plan, in which Mr. Miller:

- Explained that the legal notification forms and descriptions of scores for the Initial and Summative ELPAC are based on both California Department of Education (CDE) and SMMUSD templates.
- Stated that the language for communication with families is codified by law, and must be standard.
- Acknowledged that although reports are lengthy, with academic and/or technical language that may be difficult for some families/parents to understand, they do include important information on reclassification.
- Showed slides illustrating the meaning and significance of the Initial and Summative ELPAC tests and subsequent parent notification, demonstrating and explaining each page of the score report.
- Informed parents that ELPAC notifications will be delivered in hard copy by U.S. Postal Service.
- Stressed importance of asking school site EL teachers, BCLs or administrators for clarification.
- Illustrated the newly revised SSR, and how moving forward, students' ELPAC scores over the last 3 school grades/years will be prominently displayed to give evidence of classification, performance levels and language proficiency.
- Detailed the several factor criteria for reclassification, who is involved, and when it happens.
- Emphasized key rubric determinant for 4 on the ELPAC: Student can use language independently, and to reclassify to RFEP, that student must earn a 4 on all ELPAC sections
- Reiterated the importance of parental involvement during the reclassification process.

Dr. Williamson clarified that while parents are indeed an integral part of the reclassification process, if the school site team has made 3 or more unsuccessful attempts to contact and engage parents to be involved in redesignation meetings, the reclassification team may go ahead and make a decision amongst themselves, in order not to impede or postpone the designated student's progress and success. Teacher input matters and helps determine student reclassification, and holding relevant meetings is important so teachers can explain their position and give evidence.

Dr. Williamson described recent district office research that has shown that not all EL students are currently receiving legally required services and support. She informed the committee that as a result, SMMUSD has a newly implemented plan, beginning first at the Secondary school sites, whereby schools must choose one of 2 models to deliver EL instruction and support.

She reported that in the new plan, all EL Students must either be 1) rostered in and enrolled in an EL class, or 2) students must receive designated independent instruction within their English class. Samohi has chosen to continue

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1717 Fourth Street • Santa Monica • California 90401 • (310) 450-8338 • www.smmusd.org

Board of Education: Jon Kean • Maria Leon-Vazquez • Laurie Lieberman • Alicia Mignano

Stacy Rouse • Jennifer Smith • Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

Superintendent: Dr. Antonio Shelton

with ELD blocs, but the other secondary school sites have been given until the end of this month (November '24) to select their EL services delivery model to all students who have not been reclassified. She stated that providing appropriate EL programs is more challenging to manage at the Secondary level due to students' varied schedule of classes, choosing one of these 2 provided models will ensure that all EL students are consistently receiving services and support as required by law. The Elementary Schools' review and EL model selection is to follow during the year, with some sites already implementing dual language and/or language immersion programs.

Additionally, Dr. Williamson announced that Ms. Nazareth Riquelme, Language & Literacy Coordinator, will be presenting eligibility and program information about the California State Seal of Biliteracy in the next meeting.

Questions and Answers (10 min)

During/after Mr. Miller's presentation, various parents asked ELPAC/Reclassification questions:

- Yori Sandoval inquired about additional high school support services, and the status of her son, who is grade 12, but still on level 2.
- Stefanie Serrato asked what to do or what services are available if parents feel that students still need EL support after having been reclassified to RFEP?
- Diana Maruri asked, and reiterated 2-3 times, how notification and explanation processes can be made even easier for parents to understand, then requested that the DELAC create and distribute a "*simplified guide*" to all things ELPAC. She emphasized that people from other cultures and countries are not familiar with EL programs and processes, and require additional support, stating [verbatim] "*We need to give more to our parents, and it's the district's responsibility to provide what we need. Give us more, and we can replicate it at our schools*".

In response to Diana's request for the District Office to provide additional support services related to the ELPAC and all things EL, Dr. Williamson replied that it is the school sites' own responsibility to communicate with their students' families, maintain and manage their ELAC, and respond to all parent inquiries and concerns about the school and district EL programs.

- Laura Hernandez stated that she agreed with Diana's position and comments, and claimed that during her involvement over the 6-7 years as an ELAC/DELAC member, in spite of having lodged many complaints to the school Board, to the DELAC, and to school site Bilingual Community Liaisons (BCLs), that parents still lacked even the most basic understanding of what an EL program was, the reclassification and parent notification process, and how to interpret all of the documentation. She claimed her position is that teachers are the professionals who should be the ones to contact parents and explain the whole process and all the paperwork. She highlighted one bilingual teacher at JAMS, who phoned home and spoke Spanish to parents, and how helpful it was. She mentioned that she would like to see more teachers doing this.
- She also referred to the Alternate ELPAC for students with IEPs and revised criteria.
- Laura also underlined her desire to see school site ELACs work closely with teachers and parents to be aware of dates of testing, reclassification meetings and other important events.
- Lastly, Laura expressed her desire or "the need" for students to be reclassified before HS.

Patrick Miller mentioned the following points in response to parent comments/questions:

- In the coming report card, parents will see students' mastery levels of ELD standards.
- If students need more support after RFEP as they are working toward meeting or exceeding grade level standards, the SMMUSD's MTSS is in place for them and for all district students. Regardless of labels of [EL] classification, all students are eligible to receive the many programs and interventions the district has established on three tiers.
- Language and Literacy programs are also available for struggling students in all grade levels. Specific, evidence-based screening criteria are required to select students that should receive additional support
- Reclassification includes performance review of various state tests (STAR, CAASPP, Reading Renaissance), requiring a passing score (38+) for two tests in a row over three consecutive testing cycles, as well as relevant ELPAC scores.
- Diana Maruri asked to be emailed Dr. Williamson/Mr. Miller's presentation, but Board Liaison Alicia Mignano informed her that, as usual, that it and all other relevant documents had been posted on the DELAC website in English and Spanish.

2. Review of Norms and Expectations for DELAC Meetings (2 min) Dr. Williamson

3. Roll Call (5 min) by Dr. Williamson (9:57 a.m.)

DELAC Representatives: Veronica Ramirez - Edison, Claudia Velasquez - (Alt) Edison, Kazuaki Okamoto - Franklin, Perla Gonzalez - Grant, Nancy Orozco - (Alt) Grant, Diana Maruri - JAMS, Yori Sandoval - (Alt) JAMS, Omer Ben Neria - McKinley, Maria Luisa Guzman - Will Rogers, Stefanie Serrato - Roosevelt, Laura Hernandez - Samohi, Carla Nunez - (Alt) Samohi.

All present except for Rosa Martinez - Lincoln MS.

4. DELAC Elections (5 min) - Required 3 out of 4 current members, to pass and second motions to elect/vote in all new members. All existing members voted in favor of electing new DELAC Representatives.

Dr. Williamson reminded members that officers serve for a two (2) year term.

- DELAC Officers
 - o (Co)-president - Nominated and voted in Stefanie Serrato (Roosevelt ES)
 - o Vice-president - Nominated and voted in Veronica Ramirez (Edison ES)
 - o Co-secretary - Acknowledged previously elected Laura Hernandez, in her 2nd year
- Roll Call Vote: Unanimous (Rosa/Lincoln and Omer/McKinley absent)

5. ELAC Reports (15 min)

Dr. Williamson provided members to give an update on their school sites:

Edison (Claudia): ELAC has met 3 meetings this school year, reviewed the goals/responsibilities of ELAC, had presentations by their new principal and PTA Angels about the importance of attendance and ELD Designations.

Franklin (Kazuaki): ELAC has held a meeting, but has had little parent response, and still needs to recruit more.

Grant (Perla): ELAC has held meeting(s), elected officers, and heard presentations about getting extra help for ELs

JAMS (Diana): Planning a series of training workshops, 2x/month which will be free and open to the community. She asked the district office to create a series of training videos to inform and educate parents about the EL program.

Roosevelt (Stefanie): Reported requesting Chromebooks for EL students to get extra independent practice.

Samohi (Laura): ELAC plans to add an EL student representative for their voices to be heard, looking to appoint "Ambassadors" and to provide Spanish/Mandarin/French language support for students and families.

Will Rogers (Maria): ELAC has met, discussed the importance and benefits of regular student attendance, and plans to recruit more new members, as she was the only person to attend the last meetings.

Carla Nunez (Samohi) will share the Family Engagement programs, materials and video she has already created.

Dr. Williamson mentioned that Alicia's idea for the Parent Academy for EL Students could take place after the March '25 CABA conference, to which SMMUSD is sending staff and parents. Afterward, we can create mini workshops for parents in April/May. Alicia suggested dividing into interest groups. TOSA for Family Engagement Deborah Lukic will also support a new series of initiative, training and involvement opportunities for parents.

6. Review and Approval of DELAC By-Laws (10 min)

Dr. Williamson mentioned that since not all schools have an ELAC, they wouldn't have a DELAC representative. She clarified that parents can attend meetings and make public comments, but cannot actively participate or vote.

Parent suggestions regarding Bylaws:

Stefanie: Would like to see further attempts to clarify roles of ELAC/DELAC, and composition of its membership.

Dr. Williamson clarified that the majority must be parents of EL students, and that district employees don't count, even if they are parents of EL students, and that the DELAC must be 51% of parents who are ELAC members.

7. Review and Approval of DELAC Calendar (10 min) -

Dr. Williamson will bring this back for a vote after an Executive DELAC review of times, dates and meeting topics.

Diana Maruri asked if she can add agenda items to already calendared meetings. Dr. Williamson mentioned we must cover various components of the SMMUSD ELD program in each of the upcoming meetings, and that all changes, or the decision not to make changes, are at the discretion of the Executive DELAC.

8. Approve Minutes from _____ DELAC Meeting (5 min) Dr. Williamson
After reviewing them, there were no proposed changes to minutes from 2 past meetings. However, since there were a couple of early departures and a lack of quorum, approval of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

9. Public Comment (2 minutes for each person)

Dr. Williamson suggested that this time can be used to advertise school successes, special events, etc.

BCL Johanna de la Rosa shared the Samohi girls' championship football and tennis teams. She requested that DO/DELAC "just make one video this year." She outlined her idea to showcase a teacher and an administrator, explaining to a parent and their child that they are an EL and what are next steps and available resources. She encouraged DELAC to [verbatim] "...use tech to our advantage".

Diana: Reported planning/hosting a sex education workshop for parents.

Yori: Reported a series of mental health workshops at JAMS, at 6:30 p.m. on November 21, where they will create a safe space for parents to be able to ask questions, talk about their experiences, and share snacks and drinks. Topics include breathing and relaxation, depression, suicide, and more.

Diana: Requested a spreadsheet with new DELAC members email.

Alicia: Discussed the update on new district cell phone policy. Told Diana that we have already gotten each others' email.

Dr. Williamson congratulated Maria Leon-Vasquez on her new reappointment.

Notice of next meeting: celebratory breakfast at 12/5 9 am

11. Topics for Meeting in January: EL Master Plan - Review EL Program Goals, Services, and Objectives, Review of reclassification process for English Learners, Seal of Biliteracy (2 min)
Dr. Williamson

12. Meeting Adjourned (2 min) 10:46 a.m.

Next Meeting: December 5th, 9:00 a.m., Breakfast Celebration

Minutes taken: Deborah Lukic



**Invitación a un taller de padres
Depto. de Educación Especial del
SMMUSD en colaboración con**

**Escuela de Salud Pública
de la UCLA**

sobre

**Cómo hablar con su
hijo sobre la salud y
educación sexual**

**Jueves, 14 de Noviembre 2024,
1:30pm**

**Oficina del Distrito del SMMUSD:
1717 4th St. Santa Mónica, 90401**

**Para más información o si tienen preguntas, favor de
comunicarse con Victoria Hurst o ver la página web del Depto.**