

09-0002-572

RESOLUTION

RULES & GOVERNMENT

APR 28 2009

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal government body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the State currently requires each school district that has one or more pupils who are English learners to assess the English language development of each of those pupils upon initial enrollment in order to determine the level of proficiency of those pupils; and

WHEREAS, local districts are also required to assess each of those pupils each year thereafter until the pupil is redesignated as English proficient; and

WHEREAS, the assessment primarily consists of the administration of a specified English language development test that assesses pupils in grades 2 to 12, inclusive in English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, and pupils in kindergarten and grade 1 in English listening and speaking; and

WHEREAS, testing for English ability includes an assessment of language proficiency using an objective tool, including, but not limited to, the English language development test; and

WHEREAS, teacher evaluation, including, but not limited to, a review of the pupil's curriculum mastery is also acceptable as a measurement tool; and

WHEREAS, also taken into account are parental opinions and comparison of a pupil's performance in basic skills against an empirically established range of performance in basic skills based upon the performance of English proficient pupils of the same age; and


WHEREAS, children pick up a great deal of English during the school year and will be more likely to pass the assessment if it is held later in the process, thereby allowing them to be redesignated and save local resources that would otherwise be spent on unnecessary tests; and

WHEREAS, the bill would also help save valuable education resources by allowing for electronic test administration and procedures by which testing booklets can be reused; and

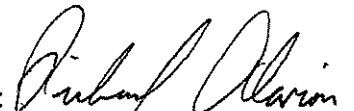
WHEREAS, SB 521 both saves money by implementing common sense changes to how English language proficiency testing takes place and also aids students perform at their best.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of the Resolution the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2009-10 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 521 (Romero), to require that the State mandated annual student assessment of nonnative speakers for English language development be conducted after at least 65% of the instructional year is completed.

PRESENTED BY:


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember
14th District

SECONDED BY:


RICHARD ALARCON
Councilmember
7th District

ORIGINAL



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