



What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21st Century?

**What Needs To Be Included and What Actions Can We Take:
Lessons Learned from the Past and New ideas for Today**

Open Space Report: Dallas

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following:

1. Names of group members

Uriel Ramos, Texas League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Education Committee Member

2. Issue/Topic/Activity

EI Plan- a comprehensive plan recommended by Tx Lulac Ed. Committee to improve the education of Hispanic youth in Texas, with a focus on secondary education

3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps

Texas LULAC believes that our state can significantly curb its high school dropout rate by improving instructional services for children who live in poverty. Hispanic English Language learners constitute a disproportionate and large percentage of students who drop out of high schools. The state of Texas can no longer afford not to address this critical need with a renewed sense of urgency.

Mission:

- **To cultivate a culture of support for dropout prevention for all students, with a focus on ELL's at all grade levels, but specifically for those in high school.**
- **To ensure that all teacher and administrator certification courses at every institute of higher education address the specific age and grade appropriate learning needs of ELL's.**
- **To ensure that parents are trained as the "promotoras" or agents of change to9 foster long-range implementation of and adherence to the recommended improvements in EI Plan. Parents can serve as the best advocates for the academic success of their children.**

EI Plan can potentially be used nationwide to assist in reducing drop out rate.

Proposal:

- **Immediate compliance with the Bilingual Education Law and its provisions.**
- **Re-write the Bilingual Education and ESL Act during next legislative session.**
- **Provide for a cost analysis to support new or redirected funding to benefit bilingual and ESL education**
- **Prepare for this new piece of legislation, the TEA should prepare for legislators and the general community, to state of education report on Texas Schools, including updated clean dropout data**
- **Eliminate, loopholes in reporting and auditing of dropout rates in Texas**
- **Re-direct state funds so that school districts can provide bilingual staff to train parents of ELLs and other children of poverty, as partners in our schools.**
- **Increase the bilingual education and ESL certification requirements for all currently practicing and incoming educators and administrators in Texas.**
- **Texas LULAC has specific recommendations on "EI Plan".**

Notes: Recommendations at 2/10/11 session:

- 1. LULAC local councils keep data on ELL students (track) as they go through high school.
Start out with small number to have compare and contrast data.**
- 2. Stated that school administrators have stated that they do not have to justify cost for programs set.**

- 3. Need to lobby in order to have teachers certified to work with ELL students. Research shows pulling ESL pull-outs does not work, it is more cost effective to have teachers ESL certified.**
- 4. Address Senate Appropriation Committee vote to do away with ESL/ELL Proclamation 2011.**
- 5, Encourage other advocacy agencies to adopt “EI Plan”.**
- 6. A vital component to the plan was the parental advocacy recommendation.**

4. Available Resources
EI Plan (in full on) website: tx-lulac.org.

Special assistance groups are (does not reflect endorsement of recommendations, but rather assistance in their formulation):

Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) San Antonio, Tx
Campaign for High School Equity(CHSE) Washington, DC
LULAC Local Council 4631, Velma Ortega, President
LULAC National Office, Washington, DC

5. Follow-up requests
EI Plan is a living document for public comment and review

1. On-going Advocacy
2. Committee meetings are scheduled to discuss implementation stages of recommendations and action plan

6. Please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!