



Multicultural Education, Training & Advocacy, Inc.
Atty. Jane E. Lopez

English Language Learners & the Boston Public Schools

- Serious Violations of Civil Rights
- Problem dates back to at least 2004
- Citizens Commission Report To the New Superintendent (2006)
- Gastón Institute Report, English Language Learners in Massachusetts: Trends in Enrollment and Outcomes (2009)

MA Dpt of Elem & Secondary Educ

- MA DESE review 2007-08 SY: BPS' provision of education to ELL students
 - Report found at www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/2008/0035.doc
- 4,000 ELL students with no ESL
- 7,000 ELL students, misidentified and not provided appropriate services (opt outs not “real” opt outs).

Remedies

- Hire ESL teachers (enough to provide services to ALL ELL students)
- Expand Training for teachers who provide SEI (Sheltered English Immersion)
- Remediate educational deficits due to loss of appropriate services to ELL students

14 “TURNAROUND” SCHOOLS

- More than 1,800 ELL Students (in these 14 schools)
- 11 Turnaround Schools have SEI programs
- 3 Turnaround schools have SEI and SIFE (Students with Interrupted Formal Education) programs
 - 1 SIFE Cape Verdean & 2 SIFE Spanish programs

Turnaround Schools & # ELLs

- Blackstone Elem School in the South End (280 ELLs)
- Dever Elem School in Dorchester (151 ELLs)
- Guild Elem School in East Boston (171 ELLs)
- Holland Elementary School in Dorchester (198 ELLs)
- J.F. Kennedy Elem School in Jamaica Plain (142 ELLs)

- English HS in Jamaica Plain (185 ELLs)
- Orchard Gardens K-8, Roxbury (225 ELLs)

Programs for Students with Interrupted Formal Education

- Emerson Elem School in Roxbury (133 ELLs)
 - SEI/ SIFE (Cape Verdean)
- Tobin K-8 School in Roxbury (135 ELLs)
 - SEI/ SIFE (Spanish)
- Dearborn Middle School in Roxbury (126 ELLs)
 - SEI/SIFE (CV)

No ELL Program

- Greenwood Elem in Hyde Park: 23
- Harbor MS in Dorchester: 22
- Odyssey HS in South Boston: 18
- Trotter Elem in Dorchester: 6

KEYES

576 F. Supp 1503 (D. Colo. 1983)

- A unitary school system is one in which all of the students have equal access to the opportunity for education, with the publicly provided educational resources distributed equitably, and with the expectation that all students can acquire a community defined level of knowledge and skills consistent with their individual efforts and abilities.

576 F. Supp 1503 (D.Colo. 1983)

- It provides a chance to develop fully each individual's potentials, without being restricted by an identification with any racial or ethnic groups.

KEYES v. School District No. 1, Denver, Colorado
576 F. Supp 1503 (D.Colo. 1983)

- In ordering a remedy, Judge Matsch brought the languages issues into the mainstream of the desegregation litigation.
- Linked resolution of language issues to the creation of a unitary school system.
- The failure to remove the language barriers was a failure to establish a unitary system.

Judge Matsch, Keyes Case

- “A failure to take appropriate action to remove language barriers to equal participation in educational programs is a failure to establish a unitary school system.”