

CLOSING THE EDUCATION



for K-12 English Learners

April 4, 2024 • Hogan Lovells
390 Madison Avenue, NYC



“Closing the Education Gap for K-12 English Learners,” hosted by LatinoJustice PRLDEF and ASPIRA of New York, is a national convening to develop strategies for improving educational outcomes for Latino K-12 students who have not yet attained English proficiency.

In the 1970s, LatinoJustice PRLDEF and ASPIRA New York joined forces to challenge New York City’s failure to provide bilingual education to children whose primary language was Spanish. The 1974 settlement in *ASPIRA v. NYC BoE* established the right of all New York City public school children to receive bilingual education while learning English and paved the way for further legal victories around the country. Congress has since passed several laws to ensure that schools meet the needs of non-English speaking students. Moreover, a few states have enacted mandates to serve this population.

Unfortunately, the educational gap experienced by Latinx English Learners (ELs) is widening, not closing. Despite greater legal protections and funding than was available 50 years ago, school districts are still not meeting the challenge of educating ELs whose success is crucial to the advancement of the Hispanic community.

To honor the 50th anniversary of the ASPIRA case, we are hosting this by-invitation-only convening with **educators, researchers, government officials, teachers, and parent advocates**. This is a working meeting limited to 100 participants where we will

Discuss the policies, practices, and deficiencies that create barriers to success and those that promote success, and recommendations as to changes in the same that have the best chances of improving educational outcomes for Latino ELs.

Hear from teachers, parent, and community advocates from around the country about their on-the-ground experience on what works and what doesn’t and the specific challenges they face.

Identify examples of successful past advocacy and litigation to improve outcomes for Latino ELs and identify where such targeted advocacy and litigation efforts may be successful in the near future.

To wrap up the day, the White House Hispanic Initiative and the President’s Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics will lead participants in a session to develop an advocacy agenda to inform future work in this critical area.



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PROGRAM AGENDA

- 9:00am-9:15am** **Welcome**
- 9:15am-10:30am** **Session 1:** Overcoming Obstacles to High-Quality English Learner Education
- 10:30am-11:45am** **Session 2:** Best Practices in English Learner Education
- 11:45am-12:00pm** **Break**
- 12:00pm-1:30pm** **Session 3: Keynote** – Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ASPIRA Consent Decree
Lunch
Fireside Chat
- 1:30pm-3:15pm** **Session 4:** Using the Law and Government Funding to Improve Outcomes
- 3:15pm-3:30pm** **Break**
- 3:30pm-5:00pm** **Session 5:** Charting the Path Forward: Developing an Advocacy Agenda for English Learners
- 5:00pm-6:30pm** **Networking reception**



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PROGRAM NOTES

(speaker list still in formation)

Please do not disseminate without checking with LatinoJustice PRLDEF first

9:00am-9:15am – WELCOME

Lourdes Rosado, President & General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Carmen Diaz-Malvido, CEO, ASPIRA of New York

9:15am-10:30am – Session 1: Overcoming Obstacles to High-Quality English Learner Education

In this session, panelists will discuss the obstacles they have faced in securing or delivering high quality English Learner education, as well as the strategies they have successfully employed to overcome those barriers?

Facilitator: **Tara García Mathewson**, Reporter, The Markup

Gloria Corral, President and CEO, PIQE (Parent Institute for Quality Education)

Xilonin Cruz-Gonzalez, Deputy Director, Californians Together

Socorro Herrera, Executive Director and Professor, Center for Intercultural and Multilingual Advocacy (CIMA), College of Education, Kansas State University

10:30am-11:45am – Session 2: Best Practices in English Learner Education

Panelists will discuss best and emerging practices in EL education with respect to curriculum, and teacher training, recruitment, and retention, including what works and what doesn't for students and their families.

Facilitator: **Alia Wong**, Reporter, USA Today.

Martha Martinez, Director of Research & Policy, SEAL, (Sobrato Early Academic Language)

Ryan Pontier, Assistant Professor of bilingual ed and TESOL, Florida International University

Xigrad Soto-Boykin, Assistant Research Professor and Director of Language Justice and Learning Equity, Children's Equity Project, Arizona State University.

12:00PM-1:30pm – Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ASPIRA Consent Decree

This will be a lunchtime session. First, a keynote and then a fireside chat with leaders at LatinoJustice PRLDEF and ASPIRA NY about the case and settlement.

Facilitator: **Lourdes Rosado**, President & General Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Cesar Perales, Co-founder, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Hon. Victor Marrero, Co-founder, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Carmen-Diaz Malvido, CEO, ASPIRA of New York



program notes continue on the next page



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1:30pm-3:15pm – Session 4: Using the Law and Government Funding to Improve Outcomes

Panelists will discuss various strategies—including enforcing federal and state law mandates and drawing on various funding streams—to create innovative, effective programming for English Learners. They will also explore how strategies to create language access in other spaces may be utilized for advancing ELs.

Facilitator: **Ileana Najarro**, Reporter, EducationWeek

Morgan Craven, National Director of Policy, Advocacy and Community Engagement, Intercultural Development Research Association

Erika Méndez, Director of P-12 Education Policy, Illinois Latino Policy Forum

Navin Pant, Deputy Chief, Educational Opportunities Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Andrea Senteno, Regional Counsel, MALDEF

Alejandra Vázquez Baur, Fellow, The Century Foundation, and Co-Founder and Director, National Newcomer Network

3:30pm-5:00pm – Session 5: Charting the Path Forward: Developing an Advocacy Agenda for English Learners

In this interactive session, facilitators will solicit input from all participants as to their recommendations for federal, state and local actions to improve outcomes for Latinx English Learners.

These recommendations will be provided to the White House Hispanic Initiative and the President's Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics, and will inform the advocacy agenda of LatinoJustice PRLDEF and ASPIRA of New York.

Facilitators:

Miranda Galindo, Supervising Counsel, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Carmen Diaz-Malvido, CEO, ASPIRA of New York

5:00pm-6:30pm – Networking Reception

