

2017 ELA Conference Presentation Proposal

Name:

Dominic James Ledesma Perzichilli

Highest Degree:

M.A.

Lead Presenter's Address:

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Institution/Firm:

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Position/Title:

Language Access Coordinator & Doctoral Student

Resume or CV:

Attached document to email

Contact information for Additional Presenters:

No additional presenters.

Presenter Bio for Conference Program for additional presenters:

No additional presenters.

If your presentation includes multiple presenters:

No multiple presenters

Presentation Title:

The Legal Dimensions of Serving Limited English Proficient (LEP) Parents in the Nation's Largest Public School System: An Analysis of Chancellor's Regulation A-663

Presentation Topic:

Equal Protection, Civil Rights, Due Process

Briefly discuss presentation learning outcomes:

This presentation will provide audience members with a better understanding of:

1. Language access as a Civil Rights matter
2. The legal questions and corresponding accountability framework that concern the language access rights of LEP audiences (parents, students, et al.) that are served by public K-12 education
3. The legal dimensions, both as written and as implemented, of an active language access policy in public K-12 schools
4. Critical factors for policies and practices that aim to promote equity in public education, especially for linguistically underserved populations

What area of education does your presentation primarily address?

Both (K-12 & Higher Ed)

How much time do you prefer for this presentation?

30-35 minutes

If your proposal is not selected for a concurrent session, are you willing to present it as a roundtable or poster session?

Either (poster or roundtable)

Summary for conference program:

Examining Chancellor's Regulation A-663, a language access policy that aims to improve communication with limited English proficient (LEP) parents in NYC public schools.

Description of the presentation:

According to New York City's Department of City Planning, over 200 languages are spoken in the city and approximately half of all New York residents speak a language other than English at home. With over 1.1 million students across more than 1,800 schools, NYC's Department of Education also represents the largest, most linguistically and culturally diverse school district in the nation. Notwithstanding the rich diversity of languages and cultures that contribute significantly to the public educational experience, serving the needs of all audiences and equitably communicating across language differences in NYC's multilingual school environment is not without formidable challenges.

"Language access" is anchored in Civil Rights law that protects individuals from discrimination based on national origin. Entities that receive funding from federal agencies, such as school districts, are required to provide language access services, namely translation and interpretation, to mitigate language barriers and communicate effectively with limited English proficient (LEP) audiences. However, legal and other implications for providing language access services to linguistically diverse populations in public education continues to be a murky concept for school districts and administrators, even when framed as a critical Civil Rights matter. This presentation focuses on how language access policies are shaped and implemented to serve public K-12 education.

Chancellor's Regulation A-663 is a NYC Department of Education policy that outlines and mandates the procedures for meeting the language access needs of LEP parents in each of the city's public schools. A-663 serves two primary objectives. First, it represents the Department's institutional response to comply with federal responsibilities in providing language access services for LEP persons. Second, it provides Department-wide guidance on accessing services to meet language access needs in school activities and functions. The overarching purpose of A-663 is create and ensure equitable access to programs, activities, and services provided by a federally funded entities. This legal analysis of Chancellor's Regulation A-663 for this presentation is based on a review of relevant federal laws, case law, policy directives and guidance from federal regulatory authorities, interviews with NYC administrators, industry best practices, and other sources that help frame legal standards for serving LEP audiences.

Acknowledge and agree with the following conditions:

1. I agree
2. I agree
3. I agree
4. I agree
5. I agree

Signed:

Dominic J. Ledesma