



Minnesota
Education Equity
Partnership

Advancing Race Equity & Excellence



COALITION OF
ASIAN AMERICAN LEADERS

Press Release

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Minnesota Multilingual Equity Network to Release Their Recommendation on English Learners for Inclusion in Minnesota's Education Plan

St. Paul, Minnesota - Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP) and the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) formed the Minnesota Multilingual Equity Network to bring various stakeholders, advocates, and education experts to focus attention on how Minnesota should design its state education plan to meet the new requirements of the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#) (formerly "NCLB"). Under ESSA the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) must develop multiple new standards for ensuring quality education for English Learners (ELs) in order to be in compliance with the federal government's requirement.

"It is important to recognize the great advancement that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) could make with respect to English Learners in K-12 classrooms. ESSA includes important policies that recognize the needs and diversity of ELs in an effort to close the ongoing achievement gap between them and other students," states Delia Pompa, Senior Fellow in Education Policy, Migration Policy Institute, Washington D.C.

The Minnesota Multilingual Equity Network's policy brief provides important background information about Minnesota's English Learners, and the state's alignment with the federal ESSA Law. It also provides recommendations on what is needed to achieve high academic outcomes for English Learners. On **Wednesday, June 28th from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation**, MnEEP and CAAL will present the Network's recommendations, including relevant preliminary decisions made by MDE, and seek support from those in attendance to prepare for the August public comment period on MDE's MN ESSA plan.

"As an elected official, I know it is important to capture - as this policy brief does - authentic voices for determining public policy that works well for the people," shared State Rep. Carlos Mariani Rosa who is also the MnEEP Executive Director. "MnEEP is proud to work with the CAAL to collect and share the voices of emerging multilingual learners (ELs) needed to shape laws that help them to achieve high levels of academic proficiency in Minnesota."

Bo Thao-Urabe, CAAL's Network Director states, "We are pleased to see ESSA's focus on English Learners, who make up some of the largest student growth populations in our school districts. Together with our communities and experts, we believe our recommendations will help Minnesota ensure English Learners succeed academically so they become an important asset to our future workforce in the region."

To register for the briefing event, please register at <https://el-essabriefing.eventbrite.com> by June 26.

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Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL, www.caalmn.org) is a network of multi-sector, multi-ethnic and multi-generational leaders who actively harnesses our collective power to improve the lives of community in Minnesota. Towards this mission, CAAL connects leaders, creates spaces for learning, and builds powerful community-centered agendas on the shared priorities of education and economics. We believe that our diversity is our asset, and building cohesion and unity among and across communities to be powerful ensures our multi-racial, multi-cultural democracy works for its entire people. CAAL deploys the following strategies to make meaningful impact for community.

- We **weave relationships** together across our community's complex identities so that leaders maximize their knowledge, resources and experiences to get things done together for greater progress.
- On the community's shared priorities of education and economics, CAAL leaders **develop shared analysis and action agendas** based on research, lived experiences and power building of the most impacted community members in order to influence and inform systems.
- Lastly, we **uplift and support the brilliance of Minnesota's diverse Asian populations** to lead inside and outside of our communities so that Minnesota's leadership in all systems reflects its population.

Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP, www.mneep.org) uses a race equity lens to transform educational institutions, organizations, and leaders to ensure that students of color and American Indian students achieve full academic and leadership success. We envision a just society in which an equitable educational ecosystem ensures all students achieve their full potential. Achieving this vision would mean that race is no longer a predictor of educational success. MnEEP utilizes research, policy development, and community empowerment models to build strong networks of communities of color, American Indian communities and education system leaders for systems, structural and cultural shifts in education.

MnEEP focuses on five big, bold goals:

- **Big Bold Goal 1:** Minnesota school systems are culturally responsive in their policies and approaches to education.
- **Big Bold Goal 2:** Minnesota school climates foster positive student engagement to eliminate discipline gaps by race and support students of color and American Indian students for academic and leadership success.
- **Big Bold Goal 3:** Minnesota educators reflect student demographics.
- **Big Bold Goal 4:** Minnesota schools utilize heritage and home language to support academic excellence for English Language Learners and the multilingualism of all students.
- **Big Bold Goal 5:** Minnesota institutions of higher education will support student achievement by providing greater access and equity to students of color and American Indian students, with a focus on financial aid.