

Resolution on the Regents English Examination

Submitted by: Professional Staff Congress

Whereas, a large number of new immigrants enter the educational system in New York State at the secondary level; and

Whereas, New York State now mandates passing scores on a series of Regents examinations to fulfill graduation requirements; and

Whereas, advocacy groups such as the New York Immigration Coalition have expressed concerns about the effects of standardized tests, especially the Regents English Examination, on the graduation rates of high school students who have been designated English Language Learners (i.e., students of limited English proficiency); and

Whereas, many public institutions of higher education in New York State offer intensive instruction in English as a Second Language (ESL) to students otherwise academically prepared to begin some college work; and

Whereas, many university-level ESL programs have begun to offer paired and linked courses which simultaneously present English language skills and traditional college-level, academic coursework; and

Whereas, the City University of New York (CUNY) offers a CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP), which is subsidized by the State of New York, and which accepts students of highly limited English proficiency into intensive (25 hours a week) programs designed for beginning-level students; and

Whereas, the number of ESL students at CUNY has fallen dramatically in the last seven years; and

Whereas, CUNY and the New York City Board of Education have worked consistently in the past decade to facilitate the "seamless" transition from high school to college; and

Whereas, many students of limited English proficiency cannot achieve the designated cut scores for the New York State English Regents English Examination and therefore cannot graduate from New York City high schools, despite being academically prepared in other areas; therefore be it

Resolved, that the New York State United Teachers establish a committee to research the effects of the New York State Regents examinations, in particular the English examination, on the rates of high school graduation and college admission among students who are designated ESL, English Language Learner (ELL), or Limited English Proficiency (LEP).