



The financial analysis of the Providence Public School District completed by Ernst & Young LLP suggested a need for more ESL-certified teachers to meet the Department of Justice guidelines. In a sampling of five elementary schools, Ernst & Young estimated up to 50 additional ESL-certified teachers are needed.

In October 2018, 3% (381) of Rhode Island public school classroom teachers and instructional coordinators held an active bilingual, dual language, or English to Speakers of Other Languages certification.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT was pleased to serve on the *Blueprint for Multilingual Learner (MLL) Success* Team alongside dedicated students, parents, educators, and community stakeholders convened by the Rhode Island Department of Education to identify, implement, and sustain more effective policies and practices for MLLs in Rhode Island. This bill is aligned with the action plans of the *Blueprint's* strategic plan which includes the creation of incentives for biliterate certification pathways for school districts with a high concentration of MLLs.

We support efforts to expand children's access to high-quality dual language and bilingual programs and to increase the capacity of the educators who serve them.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.