

### *National Partnership to Improve PreK-12 Success for Immigrant Children and Youth*

Children of immigrants and English Learners (ELs) account for a significant and growing share of children in the United States. Yet, immigrant families and community leaders are often under-represented in policy discussions in both the early learning and K-12 education arenas. To help stakeholders from these communities engage more fully in policy issues affecting immigrant and EL children, the Migration Policy Institute's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy (NCIIP) has created the National Partnership to Improve PreK-12 Success for Immigrant Children and Youth. Through the partnership, NCIIP will provide technical support to immigrant policy organizations in seven states—California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Tennessee, and Washington—to assist them as they work to improve the quality of education provided to EL children and youth in their state.

In 2017 partnership efforts will seek in particular to ensure that state plans for implementation of the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) address the needs of immigrant and EL students in the target states. ESSA, signed into law in December 2015, poses numerous challenges and opportunities for those seeking to improve the quality of education provided to ELs. By moving accountability requirements for ELs' performance to the portion of the law with the greatest consequences for states and local school districts—Title I—the performance of ELs could become a more central concern of schools and education-system leaders. ESSA also provides opportunities to strengthen the quality of preK programs and improve alignment across early childhood and elementary school programming; doing so could prove especially important in preparing young ELs for success in kindergarten and beyond.

At the same time, the law's devolution of many aspects of policy and decision-making from the federal to the state level makes it more important than ever that parents and community stakeholders engage in ensuring ESSA's provisions work to benefit all students. The National Partnership to Improve PreK-12 Success for Immigrant Children and Youth will work to broadly improve educational quality in the early childhood and K-12 arenas and help shape implementation of ESSA in key states through the following activities:

- ✓ Identifying top issues and challenges facing state and local stakeholders with regard to high-quality programming for EL and immigrant and refugee children in the early childhood education and care (ECEC) and elementary and secondary education arenas
- ✓ Supporting partner organizations in navigating the state policy development process in response to ESSA and other relevant ECEC and elementary and secondary education issues
- ✓ Providing data analysis and advice on EL policy development
- ✓ Contributing financial support to partners to facilitate community engagement in ESSA implementation
- ✓ Developing informational materials, including state fact sheets highlighting key characteristics and risk factors of ELs alongside top policies impacting their access to high-quality education services
- ✓ Connecting partner organizations with national resources and with stakeholders in EL communities in other states that are undertaking similar activities.

## – Partners –

### **Californians Together** | [www.californianstogether.org](http://www.californianstogether.org)

Californians Together is a coalition of stakeholders, including teachers, parents, administrators, and civil-rights organizations, working to improve education for the state's ELs through betterment of schools and policies on education equity.

### **Coalition of Asian American Leaders** | [www.caalmn.org](http://www.caalmn.org)

The Coalition of Asian American Leaders works to increase equity and opportunities for all, with a focus on advancing high-quality education and economic opportunity for Asian Americans in Minnesota.

### **Conexión Américas** | [www.conexionamericas.org](http://www.conexionamericas.org)

Conexión Américas was created to address opportunities and challenges faced by the Latino community in Tennessee, and focuses on social, economic, and civic integration. It leads the Tennessee Educational Equity Coalition and the Tennessee English Learner Network.

### **Latino Policy Forum** | [www.latinopolicyforum.org](http://www.latinopolicyforum.org)

The Latino Policy Forum seeks to facilitate the participation of the Chicago-area Latino community in decision-making on a range of issues, including education and leadership.

### **Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition** | [www.miracoalition.org](http://www.miracoalition.org)

MIRA provides policy analysis and advocacy, institutional organizing, training and leadership development, and strategic communications on issues affecting the Commonwealth's foreign-born residents. Its membership includes more than 130 organizations, as well as individuals.

### **Minnesota Education Equity Partnership** | [www.mneep.org](http://www.mneep.org)

The Minnesota Education Equity Partnership works to advance racial equity in educational institutions and improve academic outcomes and success among students of color.

### **New York Immigration Coalition** | [www.thenyic.org](http://www.thenyic.org)

The New York Immigration Coalition, made up of almost 200 member organizations, encourages immigrants' leadership and civic participation and provides a forum to facilitate the collective voice and action of immigrant communities in policy debates.

### **OneAmerica** | [www.weareoneamerica.org](http://www.weareoneamerica.org)

OneAmerica seeks to advance democracy and justice by building the power of immigrant and refugee communities in Washington State. It organizes and advocates for and with diverse immigrant communities on a wide range of immigration and immigrant integration policy issues.

### **For more information contact:**

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**For more resources on ELs and ESSA, visit:** [www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/ncip-english-learners-and-every-student-succeeds-act](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/ncip-english-learners-and-every-student-succeeds-act)