

Colorado State Board of Education

## TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

## BEFORE THE

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSION

DENVER, COLORADO

April 8, 2015, Part 4

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT on April 8, 2015, the above-entitled meeting was conducted at the Colorado Department of Education, before the following Board Members:

Marcia Neal (R), Chairman
Angelika Schroeder (D), Vice Chairman
Valentina (Val) Flores (D)
Jane Goff (D)
Pam Mazanec (R)
Steve Durham (R)
Debora Scheffel (R)



1 MADAM CHAIR: Excuse us for the very long 2 Executive Session we had. If anybody is here for the graduation requirements, we have decided to put those off 3 for a month, so you don't need to be here for graduation requirements. 5 6 Returning to our agenda, and going in the order in which they are, we first need to take up the 7 disciplinary proceedings on 12.02. The next item on the 8 agenda is a consideration of the Office of Administrative 9 Court, case number 2013-0016. 10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What happened to 15? 11 There's another one before that. 12.01. 12 13 MADAM CHAIR: 12.01, okay. 2015, same Oh, I didn't see that there were two. Okay. 14 Consideration of the Office of Administrative Court, case 15 number 2013-0015. Is there any discussion or is there a 16 17 motion? 18 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a motion. 19 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Which one is that? 20 21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 12.01. MADAM CHAIR: 12.01. 22 23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Regarding 24 disciplinary proceedings concerning Office of Administrative Courts, case number 2013-0015, I move to 25



| 1  | affirm the decision of the Administrative Law Judge.      |
|----|---|
| 2  | MADAM CHAIR: Is there a second?                           |
| 3  | MS. GOFF: Second.   |
| 4  | MADAM CHAIR: Jane? We have a motion and                   |
| 5  | a second to affirm the decision of the Administrative Law |
| 6  | Judge. Is there any objection?                            |
| 7  | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I I object.                           |
| 8  | MADAM CHAIR: Would you call the role, Ms.                 |
| 9  | Markel?   |
| 10 | MS. MARKEL: Madam Chair, is there to be                   |
| 11 | discussion on the motion?                                 |
| 12 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Well, we can't discuss                |
| 13 | much  |
| 14 | MADAM CHAIR: Well, I asked for discussion,                |
| 15 | and she said she objected, so nobody else said anything.  |
| 16 | (Overlapping)   |
| 17 | MS. MARKEL: Steve Durham?                                 |
| 18 | MR. DURHAM: No.   |
| 19 | MS. MARKEL: Dr. Flores?                                   |
| 20 | MS. FLORES: No.   |
| 21 | MS. MARKEL: Jane Goff?                                    |
| 22 | MS. GOFF: Yes.  |
| 23 | MS. MARKEL: Pam Mazanec?                                  |
| 24 | MS. MAZANEC: Yes.   |
| 25 | MS. MARKEL: Marcia Neal?                                  |



| 1  | MADAM CHAIR: Yes.  |
|----|--|
| 2  | MS. MARKEL: Dr. Scheffel?                                      |
| 3  | MS. SCHEFFEL: Yes.   |
| 4  | MS. MARKEL: Dr. Schroeder?                                     |
| 5  | MS. SCHROEDER: Yes.  |
| 6  | MADAM CHAIR: Motion carries, thank you.                        |
| 7  | Moving on to 1202. Next item on the agenda is consideration of |
| 8  | the Office of the Administrative Court, case number 2013-0016. |
| 9  | Is there a motion?   |
| 10 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I have a motion.                           |
| 11 | Regarding disciplinary proceedings concerning Office of        |
| 12 | Administrative Court, case number 2013-0016, I move to affirm  |
| 13 | the decision of the Administrative Law Judge.                  |
| 14 | MADAM CHAIR: Is there a second?                                |
| 15 | MS. GOFF: Second.  |
| 16 | MADAM CHAIR: Pam? Are you seconding, or are                    |
| 17 | you just waving your hand?                                     |
| 18 | MS. MAZANEC: No, I'm sorry, I'm trying to get                  |
| 19 | my internet working.   |
| 20 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Jane seconded it.                          |
| 21 | MADAM CHAIR: Jane seconded?                                    |
| 22 | MS. GOFF: I'll second.   |
| 23 | MADAM CHAIR: Is there any objection? No                        |
| 24 | objection?   |
| 25 | (Overlapping)  |



| 1  |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (indiscernible)           |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 2  |                 | MADAM CHAIR: I'm sorry, I didn't see you.     |
| 3  | Okay, call the  | roll please.                                  |
| 4  |                 | MS. MARKEL: Steve Durham?                     |
| 5  |                 | MR. DURHAM: No.                               |
| 6  |                 | MS. MARKEL: Dr. Flores?                       |
| 7  |                 | MS. FLORES: No.                               |
| 8  |                 | MS. MARKEL: Jane Goff?                        |
| 9  |                 | MS. GOFF: Yes.                                |
| 10 |                 | MS. MARKEL: Pam Mazanec?                      |
| 11 |                 | MS. MAZANEC: Yes.                             |
| 12 |                 | MS. MARKEL: Marcia Neal?                      |
| 13 |                 | MADAM CHAIR: Yes.                             |
| 14 |                 | MS. MARKEL: Dr. Scheffel?                     |
| 15 |                 | MS. SCHEFFEL: Yes.                            |
| 16 |                 | MS. MARKEL: Dr. Schroeder?                    |
| 17 |                 | MS. SCHROEDER: Yes.                           |
| 18 |                 | MADAM CHAIR: Motion carries. Thank you. All   |
| 19 | right, we are n | ow moving down to the rulemaking hearing for  |
| 20 | revision to the | rules for the administration of the READ Act. |
| 21 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (indiscernible) Chinese   |
| 22 | endorsement?    |   |
| 23 |                 | MR. DURHAM: No, we're going to                |
| 24 | (Overlapping    | 1)  |
| 25 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Chinese language.         |



| 1  |                 | MADAM CHAIR: Oh, graduation requirements, I'm |
|----|-----------------|---|
| 2  | sorry.          |   |
| 3  |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: No. (Indiscernible).      |
| 4  |                 | MADAM CHAIR: Well, you told me "no".          |
| 5  |                 | MR. DURHAM: Yeah, no. The guest network is    |
| 6  | being weird.    |   |
| 7  | (Overlapping    |   |
| 8  |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible).          |
| 9  |                 | MADAM CHAIR: Who knows what we're doing?      |
| 10 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We're on channel one.     |
| 11 |                 | MADAM CHAIR: Okay.                            |
| 12 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Oh, and we're skipping    |
| 13 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible).          |
| 14 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Gotcha.                   |
| 15 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And we're going to come   |
| 16 | back and        |   |
| 17 | (Overlapping    |   |
| 18 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (indiscernible).          |
| 19 |                 | MADAM CHAIR: The rulemaking here at 15.01.    |
| 20 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You are correct. I        |
| 21 | didn't I did    | n't know we skipped.                          |
| 22 |                 | MADAM CHAIR: 15.01.                           |
| 23 |                 | MR. DURHAM: And then we'll come back to the   |
| 24 | Chinese endorse | ment.   |
| 25 |                 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Gotcha.                   |



| 1  | MADAM CHAIR: Come back to the Chinese in a                    |
|----|---|
| 2  | few minutes.  |
| 3  | MR. DURHAM: Do we have everybody                              |
| 4  | (indiscernible)?  |
| 5  | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible).                          |
| 6  | (Pause)   |
| 7  | MR. DURHAM: All right, Madam Chair?                           |
| 8  | MADAM CHAIR: The Colorado State Board of                      |
| 9  | Education will not conduct a public rulemaking hearing for    |
| 10 | rules for the administration of the READ Act, CR301-92. State |
| 11 | Board approved the notice of rulemaking at its February 18,   |
| 12 | 2015 Board Meeting, and the State Board is authorized to      |
| 13 | promulgate these rules pursuant to 22-7-1209(1)(a)(e)CRS, at  |
| 14 | Colorado formal opinion number 14.02. Commissioner, is staff  |
| 15 | prepared to provide an overview?                              |
| 16 | MR. HAMMOND: Yes, and (indiscernible) I'm                     |
| 17 | just going to turn it over to staff, we've discussed this     |
| 18 | MADAM CHAIR: Thank you.                                       |
| 19 | MR. HAMMOND: several times, and now we are                    |
| 20 | ready to (indiscernible) again.                               |
| 21 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.                                      |
| 22 | MADAM CHAIR: All right.                                       |
| 23 | MR. HAMMOND: And see where we go.                             |
| 24 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair?                              |
| 25 | MADAM CHAIR: Yes, thank you.                                  |



| 1  | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE. And Members of the Board.                   |
|----|---|
| 2  | We're hear to just present to you once again for consideration  |
| 3  | revisions to the READ Act rules. We bring these revisions in    |
| 4  | response to the Attorney General's opinion regarding the        |
| 5  | identification of significant reading deficiencies for children |
| 6  | involved in the Colorado READ Act, K-3 students. You have in    |
| 7  | your packet a copy of the Attorney General's opinion; you have  |
| 8  | the PowerPoint slides that we will be sharing in just a moment. |
| 9  | You have the proposed rule changes, along with a crosswalk of   |
| 10 | those changes.  |
| 11 | Additionally, we'll get to in a moment, that                    |
| 12 | you have feedback from written comments that we've received     |
| 13 | since the last board meeting, that we'll be glad to address     |
| 14 | before we move to public comments.                              |
| 15 | So you'll see on this screen, or in your                        |
| 16 | handout, that in the state of Colorado, when we talk about      |
| 17 | literacy programming, there are really two types of literacy    |
| 18 | programs that support children in our state. One type of        |
| 19 | programming is through English literacy instruction; the other  |
| 20 | type of programming is through bilingual literacy instruction.  |
| 21 | You'll see on the screen that there are the students who are    |
| 22 | in the English literacy model receive their instruction         |
| 23 | primarily, or exclusively in English, and then they receive     |
| 24 | additional support to help develop their English language       |
| 25 | through English language development programs.                  |



| 1  | In the bilingual literacy programming,                          |
|----|---|
| 2  | students may receive their instruction in more than one         |
| 3  | language, helping to develop their English literacy, as well as |
| 4  | developing or supporting their primary or native language.      |
| 5  | Depending on the type of programming, the instructional         |
| 6  | sequence may vary. This is determined basically by local        |
| 7  | district policy, and programming implementation.                |
| 8  | On the next slide, what you'll see is a                         |
| 9  | distribution representing the K-3 population in Colorado for    |
| 10 | which students there are 270,000, I should say, kindergarten    |
| 11 | through third grade students in the state of Colorado. About    |
| 12 | 49,000 of those children of those children, are students who    |
| 13 | speak more than one language; 39,000 of those children are      |
| 14 | represented here in the chart, because Spanish is their second  |
| 15 | language or primary language, and they developing English       |
| 16 | language. And then you'll see on the pie that about 6800 of     |
| 17 | those children are represented in the type of programming for   |
| 18 | which this opinion applies. That number of students, 6800,      |
| 19 | represents about 11 districts across the state of Colorado.     |
| 20 | We have engaged stakeholders and constituents                   |
| 21 | in a process over several months, to help give us the kind of   |
| 22 | feedback that we need to bring forth the rules that you see     |
| 23 | before you today, and we have provided for you in the document  |
| 24 | that you'll see, a crosswalk of those changes. Those changes    |
| 25 | are minimal and really specifically in response to the opinion. |



1 Each of those changes provided in the crosswalk, show the 2 original language, and the proposed language. You also have a 3 copy of those as they would appear in full document for 4 adoption. 5 We have received comments -- written comments from nine commenters over the course of the last several weeks 6 and months, and we have responded and provided you some 7 8 feedback based on those commenter's questions to us, and you 9 have those available in front of you. Essentially, we are 10 responding to the Attorney General's opinion. We are 11 maintaining local decision making according to implementation, 12 and we are supportive, if you will, to the goal that is already 13 in your READ Act rules, to have an outcome for students, and 14 that is that they be proficient, supported through their 15 identification services by the end of third grade, to be 16 competent, healthy readers; comprehending in English. 17 If you have any questions, we'd be glad to 18 answer them at this time. 19 MS. MAZANEC: Excuse me --20 MADAM CHAIR: Pam? 21 MS. MAZANEC: Would you just repeat that last 22 -- 3 23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Your rules in your 24 crosswalk document -- your present rules continue to state that 25 we're supportive of students in kindergarten through third



25

comment.

1 grade, through READ Act, in developing their proficiency as 2 readers, and the language says: By assessing them in their 3 language of instruction, leading towards reading comprehension, for these English -- limited English proficiency students, by 4 5 giving this district criteria and documentation. And it goes 6 on to say: Leading to their proficiency in reading and 7 English. 8 MS. MAZANEC: Thank you. 9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, ma'am. 10 MADAM CHAIR: Any other questions? Go ahead. 11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair, we would be 12 ready for public comment. Oh --13 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. 14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible) now or after public comment? 15 16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I -- Madam Chair, I would 17 18 (Overlapping) 19 MADAM CHAIR: Questions now or -- before or 20 after public comment? You have no preference? What do you 21 think, Deb? Do you want to ask it now? Or wait till the 22 public comment? 23 MS. SCHEFFEL: Can wait till the public

MADAM CHAIR: Okay, we'll wait for public



1 Do we have -- do I have that list? comment. 2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She's on her way. 3 MADAM CHAIR: Oh, she's on her way to get 4 public comments. Okay. 5 (Pause) 6 MADAM CHAIR: We sure have lots of public 7 comments today, don't we? 8 (Pause) 9 MADAM CHAIR: Once again, our public comments 10 rules are that people who signed up have three minutes to 11 speak, and Carey, our secretary, will be timing. When she 12 holds up her little three minute thing, you're supposed to stop 13 talking. Finish the sentence and -- and finish as quickly as 14 possible. And if you go on too long, then we quiet you down. And we only have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight 15 16 people scheduled, so that shouldn't take too long. First 17 person up is Cara Vieska (ph)? Did I do that right? 18 MS. VIESKA: Almost. 19 MADAM CHAIR: Not quite. 20 MS. VIESKA: It's -- it's not a name that 21 everyone pronounces correctly; no worries. My name is Cara 22 Mitchell Vieska; I am a professor at CU Denver, in the 23 Culturally and Linquistically Diverse Education Program. 24 also lead a collaboration in this state called HELDE; it stands 25 for Higher Educators and Linguistically Diverse Education.



- 1 we have submitted written comment, I'm just hear to reaffirm
- 2 that we feel really strongly that these rules should be passed.
- 3 We have participated in the development of these rules, and we
- feel that they've been very participatory and open.
- We've collaborated with districts and schools
- 6 and we've heard how valuable these rules would be. But also
- 7 from like a teaching and research perspective, I can say that
- 8 these are the right rules to be passed. One of the big
- 9 confusions around working with bilingual kids, particularly in
- 10 the realm of literacy, is where does literacy end, and language
- 11 development begin?
- 12 And so I just ask you to think for a minute:
- 13 If I submitted to you right now a test of your literacy skills
- in Chinese, how well would you do? You are literate
- 15 individuals, you are very capable and educated individuals.
- 16 But because you need to develop your language proficiency
- 17 skills in Chinese, you would not do well with that. That same
- 18 would be true for German, or any other language that you don't
- 19 know. Even depending -- even if the orthographic system is
- 20 different in a language, the literacy skills we develop in our
- 21 language of strongest proficiency transfer into other languages
- as we develop those language skills.
- 23 So it's really important to recognize here, is
- the opportunity for these rules to reduce the
- 25 overidentification of students has having a reading deficiency,



1 when in reality they need language development support. 2 the -- and the kind of interventions that children are given 3 based on having a reading deficiency, are very different than the kind of interventions a child would be given if they were 5 identified as needing English language development support. 6 And so it's really going to be a waste of -and already is a waste of teacher's and student's time, and our 7 8 valuable state resources to overidentify students having a 9 deficiency in reading, when in reality, they need support to 10 develop their English language skills. So we stand firmly in support of this -- of these rules. 11 12 Our -- our group represents over 16 13 institutions of higher education. We have some of the premier 14 researchers in the nation studying literacy development for bilingual students who stand behind these rules. And in fact, 15 16 have conducted research on Colorado data to illustrate the 17 problematic nature of overidentifying bilingual kids as having 18 reading deficiencies, when in reality they are on a natural trajectory towards bilingualism, biliteracy, and -- and strong 19 20 levels of English proficiency. And I -- in the -- in the written comments 21 22 that I'm also happy to give a -- the copy of, their citation is 23 there. It's a -- it's a new piece that came out in the Journal 24 of Literacy Research, and it is Colorado research. So we stand 25 firmly in support, and hope that they will be passed.



| 1  | MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Louis Polza (ph)?                       |
|----|---|
| 2  | Did I do that one right?  |
| 3  | MR. POLZA: Yeah. Louis Polza. So good                           |
| 4  | afternoon, thank you for giving me the opportunity to           |
| 5  | contribute. I'm a colleague of Dr. Mitchell-Vieska's in the     |
| 6  | Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Program at CU   |
| 7  | Denver School of Education, Human Development. And likewise,    |
| 8  | I'd like to just speak in favor of the revised rules.           |
| 9  | So there's a robust body of scholarship                         |
| 10 | suggesting that student's literacy skills in the home language  |
| 11 | transfer and support literacy development in a target language, |
| 12 | dating all the way back to the work of Wallace Lambert with     |
| 13 | bilingual students in the '60s, through to Jim Cummings in the  |
| 14 | `70s and `80s, through to the work of Sue (indiscernible) now   |
| 15 | happening here in Colorado in our current times. And these      |
| 16 | revised rules acknowledge this research, they recognize the     |
| 17 | value of home language literacy development as a scaffold and   |
| 18 | stepping stone with its own inherent value of course, but also  |
| 19 | as a support for the acquisition of literacy in English.        |
| 20 | As my colleague mentioned, we know that even                    |
| 21 | when orthographic systems and grammar and vocabular may differ  |
| 22 | across languages, notions of concepts of print, notions of      |
| 23 | reading for comprehension and for meaning making; those         |
| 24 | concepts can transfer, and the new rules allow for the          |
| 25 | disentangling of the of of recognizing when students have       |



struggles with those concepts, versus when they have struggles 1 2 with the linguistic system itself. Thank you. 3 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Sara Simpio (ph)? 4 MS. SIMPIO: Hi. 5 MADAM CHAIR: Hi. 6 MS. SIMPIO: I'm Sara Simpio, and I have three children in Monument, and my husband is Hispanic; his first 7 8 language was Spanish. And as a result, my special needs child 9 was test for ELL. He was labeled as an English language 10 learner, due to test results. We've never spoken Spanish to 11 him. He has a learning disability. He has a slow mental 12 processing issue. He has received this label, and we cannot 13 get it off because he cannot get out of the testing 14 requirements because of his learning disability. So he is stuck, as the first person talked about, in over labeling. 15 16 this is one of the problems in trying to categorize children, 17 and label them based on all these rules and regulations, is 18 they are human beings, and there is many factors involved. The other thing I'd like to speak to is the 19 20 fact that he has a slow learning speed, a processing speed with 21 his brain, he cannot read fast. And in the READ Act, for 22 proficiency, there is a speed requirement. He's 13; he's doing 23 fine in school, but he would potentially still be in third 24 grade. Thank you.

MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. I have Anita



| 1  | Stapleton down on this (indiscernible); is Anita in the room?  |
|----|--|
| 2  | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I wrote her in because                     |
| 3  | you mentioned if we didn't get in 10:30 (indiscernible)        |
| 4  | (Overlapping)  |
| 5  | MADAM CHAIR: Oh, okay, because that                            |
| 6  | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible).                           |
| 7  | MADAM CHAIR: I'm sure she would be speaking                    |
| 8  | on another area. I just didn't want her to think I was         |
| 9  | ignoring her. Deama? D-E-A-M-A? With no last name? She was     |
| LO | with Anita, I guess. George Garcia.                            |
| l1 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Jorge.                                     |
| 12 | MADAM CHAIR: Jorge, sorry.                                     |
| 13 | MR. GARCIA: Thank you, Madam Chair. My name                    |
| L4 | is Jorge Garcia. I was going to say, if it please the court    |
| 15 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You might as well.                         |
| 16 | MR. GARCIA: Mr. Chairman, Members of the                       |
| L7 | Board, thank you very much. Last time I spoke with you about   |
| 18 | this issue, I wanted to make the point strongly that any test  |
| 19 | in English to a student who is not proficient in English, is a |
| 20 | test of English. So we need to keep in mind that what we're    |
| 21 | talking about here is an act that recognizes that it's         |
| 22 | important to determine whether or not a child needs additional |
| 23 | support to learn to read.                                      |
| 24 | And you have the Attorney General's opinion                    |

saying that being assessed in Spanish was part of the intent of



25

Alyssa Whitehead?

- 1 the READ Act. So you have the READ Act, you know what the 2 legislature intended. You have the Attorney General's opinion, 3 so you have the highest legal opinion, short of a court, saying 4 that these are the appropriate changes to the rule. But you 5 also have heard some of the research, and I suggest that we 6 have an ethical duty to -- if we must assess, and the law --7 this law says we must assess these children. If we must 8 assess, then we must assess ethically in the manner that will 9 give us valid results. 10 And simply stated, to teach a child who is 11 learning to read in Spanish, because of our local control 12 quarantees, to -- to teach a child in Spanish and then use 13 results of an English test to determine whether or not they 14 have a -- a -- a problem with reading, is clearly invalid, and therefore, unethical. 15 16 I'm not going to waste any more of your time. 17 I just simply want to repeat that in the context of the READ 18 Act, with the law being made clear to us by Attorney -- then Attorney General John Suthers, and the feedback that the 19 20 Department has received from the locals, what's best for kids 21 is that we pass these revised rules and go about working with 22 our children in our classrooms. Thank you. 23 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Very interesting.
  - MS. WHITEHEAD: Hi, I'm Alyssa Whitehead-Bust,



1 I'm the Chief Academic and Innovation Officer in Denver Public 2 Schools, and appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Board 3 again today about the district's strong support of the purposed 4 rules. 5 You've heard me speak before about our 6 gratitude for the opportunity both to collaborate with staff, 7 and to express our support for rules that allow us to do a very 8 important assessment to identify students who have significant 9 reading deficiencies; but to do so in a manner that honors the 10 assets and unique constructural needs of our English language 11 learners. In our district of 90,000 students, nearly 40 12 13 percent come to us with the asset of a native language other 14 than English, and as we think about our assessment programming, it's incredibly important to us, within our district, to assess 15 16 using appropriate measures and assessment techniques. 17 unique needs of our students to first and foremost become literate, to be able to read, write, speak and listen on grade 18 level. 19 20 In our context, we honor the opportunity to 21 develop literacy both in a student's native language, and in 22 English, but also as you've heard from speakers before me, to 23 develop uniquely the English language of our English language 24 learners. And we believe there are unique assessments and

instructional programs that allow us to develop English skills



1 as distinct from literacy skills. 2 Third, an incredibly important in our 3 biliteracy context, we believe deeply in maintaining the asset of a student's native language. We believe that students who 5 come to the district with a native language other than English, 6 are entitled to the right to maintain that asset as part of their familial and community, as part of their future work 7 attributes, as well as is part of their academic pursuits. 8 our particular case, we have found that our students who enjoy 9 10 English and Spanish in their day-to-day instruction, outperform 11 their peers who speak only English as their first language. 12 For those reasons, we are in strong support of the rules, and appreciate the opportunity to address you today. 13 14 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. And Dr. Darlene LeDoux (ph)? 15 16 MS. LEDOUX: Good afternoon, it's -- thank you 17 for your service to Colorado and to all of our students. As a 18 native Denverite and Coloradan, and as the Executive Director 19 of Academic Achievement for English Learners in the Denver Public Schools, I would like to speak to you today from the 20 21 voice of parents. 22 We gathered parents of our English learners, 23 and asked them: What do you think? Tell us what -- why --24 what would you like us to do, and how would you like us to work 25 with your children? Because we truly value the voice of our



1 parents. And this is what they said: They want -- they value that their children speak, read, and write in English, and in 2 3 Spanish. They want their children to be able to speak with 4 their own family members in their native language, and also to 5 be able to be successful in college and career, and get good 6 jobs. They said "get good jobs", is how they -- they worded 7 it. 8 They want their children to be -- to be bilingual, and have more opportunities so that they could help 9 10 their families, and they could help their community. They want 11 their children to learn English and Spanish at the highest 12 levels. They want them to be smart in both. And throughout 13 the world, they know, because many of them come from other 14 countries -- many countries, of course; they know that more than one language is valued, and they're -- they're guite 15 16 confused sometimes as to why we don't seem to value that in the 17 United States, and they want to make sure that we continue to 18 honor their language. But of course, I'd like to highlight, they also want their kids to learn English at high levels. 19 20 We have, as Alyssa mentioned, we have 34,000 21 students in the Denver Public Schools that speak languages 22 other than English, and are learning English. And of the 23 34,000 students, the majority are Spanish speaking. 24 parents have the right to choose a classroom that -- where 25 their children can learn content in their native language, and



- 1 English, and/or just in English. And we want to continue -2 the parents want to be continue -- the right and the privilege
- 3 to be able to choose that, because in either classroom, their
- 4 kids will be English proficient.
- 5 And I just would like to highlight for your
- 6 information -- on the ACCESS assessment, which is the score of
- 7 English language proficiency for the state of Colorado, our
- 8 students in Denver had a six percent gain last year. We
- 9 continue to have some of the highest scores in the state, and
- that's our fifth straight year in a row of gain in English
- 11 language proficiency. So I just would like to remind you about
- 12 the benefits -- the academic benefits for our kids, and that's
- why we strongly support the recommendation of our colleagues,
- and the Colorado Department of Education specific to the rules,
- 15 and the READ Act. Thank you.
- 16 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you. Gregory? Did you
- send an email to Ms. Schroeder?
- MR. GREGORY: (Indiscernible).
- 19 MADAM CHAIR: Gregory? How many students are
- with you?
- MR. GREGORY: I'm sorry?
- 22 MADAM CHAIR: Would -- would you come to the
- mic please?
- MR. GREGORY: Oh yes.
- 25 MADAM CHAIR: You said you wanted to testify,



1 and you had some other people --2 MR. GREGORY: Not on -- not on this issue, I'm 3 sorry. MADAM CHAIR: Oh, you're on a different issue? 4 5 MR. GREGORY: Yes, thank you. 6 MADAM CHAIR: Okay, all right. Thank you for your time. Then is there anyone else who wants to speak on 7 8 this issue? If not, we'll close that, and go back to our -- go 9 back to the business at hand. All right. 10 Thank you all very much for those of you who 11 spoke. I had a better appreciation for Hispanic children who 12 are learning to speak English. And they can't speak Spanish, 13 or -- you know, the whole thing. I've got a much better 14 picture of that from listening to you. I appreciate that. right, (indiscernible). Who's next? Are we going to proceed? 15 16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair, I believe 17 now it's open for your discussion about the rules. 18 MADAM CHAIR: Okay, questions from the Board? 19 Pam? 20 MS. MAZANEC: If we value bilingualism, why 21 would we not test a Spanish speaking student in English, until 22 after the third grade? If we change the rules as proposed, 23 isn't it true that Spanish speaking students might not ever be 24 assessed in English through these approved interim assessments 25 until after the third grade? Is that true?



| 1  | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair?                                |
|----|---|
| 2  | MADAM CHAIR: Yes.   |
| 3  | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It is possible, as you                      |
| 4  | described, that a student may be in the K-3 range for which     |
| 5  | READ Act applies, and that if their instruction, per the        |
| 6  | Attorney General's opinion, was being provided in both English  |
| 7  | and Spanish, and they were eligible to take the Spanish         |
| 8  | assessment as a choice that the district would make, that that  |
| 9  | district could remain in making that decision for that child    |
| 10 | through the entire K-3 range. However, your rules, as they are  |
| 11 | presently, do state that as I was mentioning, in 9.01(e),       |
| 12 | that your rules currently state that they should be assessed in |
| 13 | the language or languages of instruction, leading towards       |
| 14 | comprehension in English. So but it is possible.                |
| 15 | MS. MAZANEC: That's that's a statement                          |
| 16 | that does not require English language learners to be assessed  |
| 17 | in English, correct?  |
| 18 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair?                                |
| 19 | MADAM CHAIR: Yes.   |
| 20 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I would I would say                         |
| 21 | that you are correct that that is a possibility.                |
| 22 | MS. FLORES: May I state something, Madam                        |
| 23 | Chair?  |
| 24 | MADAM CHAIR: Yes. Put your mic down, please.                    |
| 25 | MS. FLORES: I did teach, but we had to assess                   |



1 English every year, to see how -- and in English, to see how 2 kids were gaining. How much English they were gaining. So 3 they have to be taught. I don't know, this is -- this happens in Denver Public Schools. I can't imagine that it wouldn't 4 5 happen in other places where you need to know how English --6 how much English is -- is being gained every year. And that was one of the areas where I was checked of as a teacher. 7 So I -- I -- I've never been in a classroom 8 where -- even if I were, bilingual, meaning if the -- if -- if 9 10 the instruction were in another language, you also have to 11 start very early with English, and they must be able to get to 12 a certain point in English to -- or else -- I just don't see 13 how by third grade, many kids have to take -- in three years, 14 they have to take their tests in English, because they've been in system for three years. So I've just never been in -- and 15 16 I've taught in many school districts in the country, but 17 English was something that was always very important, and it 18 was tested. 19 MADAM CHAIR: And your response? 20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you, Madam Chair. 21 I would -- I would want to just reiterate that the READ Act is 22 differentiating between assessment for the purpose of 23 identifying those children most at risk for reading difficulty 24

MS. FLORES: So it's just for reading?



1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So -- so the READ Act is 2 looking at literacy, specifically reading, in the -- in the 3 assessments that we measure. So I just want to be clear that 4 that is different than what assessment might be placed in other 5 types of programming. That would be assessments towards 6 language proficiency. 7 MS. FLORES: Exactly. 8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So they are --9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Excuse me, but -- so that 10 test, you're referring to the ACCESS test? Which is about 11 language proficiency, but not about reading proficiency. 12 Right? 13 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair, would you 14 like for me to respond? MADAM CHAIR: Yes, please. 15 16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I would say, yes, that 17 the ACCESS test serves a different purpose than the READ Act 18 interim assessments. The READ Act interim assessments are 19 looking for students who are most at risk, who have reading 20 difficulties through a prevention oriented mindset, 21 (indiscernible) so we can catch early, to prevent interventions 22 from happening later. ACCESS is an assessment that looks at 23 multiple components that measure English language development in different domains. 24

MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, thank you. And more?



1 Jane?

2 MS. GOFF: Yes. I don't know that everyone 3 would have picked up on it in the same way, or have the chance to read the whole set of rules, but there is a much appreciated 5 by me reminder, reiteration, whatever you want to call it, of 6 the order of skill building, and the order of the progression of language acquisition, which includes the listening, the 7 reading, the speaking and -- writing and then speaking, in that 8 9 order -- or listening, speaking, reading and writing. So the 10 progression is very important. And in any regard, the reading component is the base, it is the foundation for expanding on, 11 12 and -- and the blossoming on those -- all of the other skills. 13 And there is really no stop, it's a continuous cycle of skill 14 building. If -- when the reading is focused on, and -- and you 15 can identify accurately where deficiency might be, and really, 16 on the other hand, where the strengths are with reading, it 17 helps an awful lot to plan out, and -- and integrate ways to 18 build up the others as well. So the reading is a completely different 19 20 skill. You know, I am a language teacher by career, I've been 21 doing it for a long time. So the whole idea -- and the mention 22 in there of -- excuse me -- the three to -- or three and/or 23 five years when ideally -- and this is true of all languages, 24 it is much better to predict that it will take seven to ten 25 years in order to build adequate what we would say, fluency



- 1 communication ability.
- 2 I -- I -- I am appreciative of the new rule
- 3 change proposals. I think this is a -- I think it's wise. I
- 4 do not feel that it precludes any emphasis in a classroom or
- 5 otherwise on English language building, because frankly I live
- 6 a life of -- where one builds the other. You cannot -- you
- 7 cannot not impact the skill level in one by -- you just do.
- 8 You've got two things going on at once.
- 9 The other thing, at some point down the road
- 10 perhaps, I would like to be -- I would like to know, at some
- 11 point, we talk about low-achieving/high-achieving, whether it's
- 12 district schools, classrooms, as far as language ability is
- 13 related. How many of our top achieving students and prize
- 14 winners are -- are involved in multiple language activities?
- 15 If we have heritage links and so forth. There is -- there is
- 16 such a growing body of evidence about the value of second and
- 17 more language learning and how that builds on the skills that
- 18 are just innate in all content areas.
- 19 So thank you. I -- I'm pretty sure I
- 20 understand what the difference is between looking for reading
- 21 proficiency, or significant deficiency, versus the linguistics
- 22 part of it. I don't think we have to give up the linguistics
- building in any language if we -- if we focus on what these
- 24 rules are trying to do.
- 25 MADAM CHAIR: Thank you, Jane. Any more



questions from the Board? Any comments from (indiscernible)? 2 Deb? 3 MS. SCHEFFEL: Thank you. Thanks for the great discussion so far. My concern is that -- I -- I really 4 5 appreciate the comments, because I think they go right to the 6 heart of the issue, which is, we want to honor ELL students 7 biliteracy and bilingualism. We need that. Parents want that. 8 Our society wants that. We need that. The -- the question I 9 have is the confusing language being used to achieve that. 10 So if we look at the AG's opinion, part of the 11 problem perhaps rests in a confusion about the question and the 12 opinion. But if I look at Page 2, the top of the page, it 13 says: The question at issue here is whether the READ Act 14 effectively prohibits dual language programs by requiring reading proficiency to develop -- to be developed in English 15 16 only. The rules in the statute expressly prohibit that out of 17 the gate. So that wasn't a question that was really needing to 18 be posed, because the law and the rules already said it 19 required assessment in English and Spanish. 20 Further on the same page, specifically, the 21 question presented is whether those districts utilizing 22 literacy instruction in both English and Spanish must assess 23 whether the students have a significant reading deficiency in 24 English only. Again, the original rules and law expressly 25 prohibited that -- prohibited that. And said that testing must



1 be in Spanish and English. So I think the prompt for this 2 adjustment of the rules was based on questions that in some 3 ways need -- need not have been posed based on the statute and 4 the rules, which is why this whole discussion strikes me as odd 5 from the beginning. So I don't know how the questions got 6 posed, but I just know that in the statute, in the rules, it 7 said already: Students must be tested in English and Spanish. 8 So if we honor biliteracy and bilingualism, I think these rules 9 actually put us behind. 10 And so I'd like to ask three questions; tell 11 me if I'm interpreting the language wrong then. I -- I think 12 if I read these -- this new iteration of these rules correct, I 13 think that whereas in the previous set of rules, there was a 14 provision for those who speak a first language other than English in the law, exempting them from retention. Now, those 15 16 students could be retained simply because they are ELL. I 17 wonder if someone from the Literacy Unit, perhaps you, Alyssa, 18 could address that. I think in a way, we're turning it back, 19 such that we could now retain those students merely because they are ELL. 20 21 MADAM CHAIR: (Indiscernible) talking it out? 22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I just wanted to get --23 Madam Chair --? 24 MADAM CHAIR: That's fine. (Indiscernible) 25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Get to the right page, to



1 be able to respond. So the law as it is in statute provides a 2 protection for students who are English learners, who if tested 3 in English and found that their language was the contributing factor to their identification, would be exempt --4 5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right. 6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: -- from certain discussions, like that of retention. On Page 4 in the opinion 7 -- I'm going to get to the right place here -- it does say that 8 these students would essentially -- I'm trying to find where it 9 is -- would -- would be -- would potentially be subject to a 10 11 retention discussion, when their identification was actually 12 determined to be a deficiency in reading. And so that protection would then be removed if their identification was 13 14 through a Spanish assessment. MS. SCHEFFEL: So whereas before, in the 15 16 previous iteration of the rules, we could not hold those 17 students back, merely because of a -- because their first 18 language is Spanish. Now they can be held back. I think that 19 that puts us back 20 years. So that's one problem I have. I 20 have other issues, if I can continue. 21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair, I'm sorry, 22 just to be clear, I may have left out just one distinguishing 23 point that I just want to be clear about. The -- the 24 designation of the significant reading deficiency is what 25 subjects a child to a discussion about having retention as one



1 strategy for supporting that child. So that determination 2 through the READ Act, and through the opinion, can now be made 3 in English or in Spanish, so that we would not have the 4 consideration of language being a part of the discussion, but 5 rather we would have the identification correct in knowing that 6 it was in fact a deficiency in reading. So I just wanted to be sure that I had said that correctly. 7 8 MS. SCHEFFEL: But if we don't have data in both languages, how can we make that determination? 9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So -- Madam Chair? 10 11 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. 12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: May I just reiterate and 13 ask her question again? Are you saying, if we have only 14 Spanish, or only English interim assessment data for children in this type of programming, we wouldn't necessarily know that 15 16 they had developed the goal of biliteracy? I'm -- I'm re-, I'm 17 asking; is that your question? 18 MS. SCHEFFEL: Yes. Yes. 19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay. 20 MS. SCHEFFEL: It seems to me we can make that 21 determination if we have contrasting data in both languages. 22 If those -- these students don't have to be tested in English 23 at all, then how can we make that distinction? UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair? 24

MADAM CHAIR: Go ahead.



answering?

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Again, as part of local 2 programming, that would be a decision that a local district 3 could make as far as the way that they would approach 4 measurement of student's progress towards the goal. 5 MS. SCHEFFEL: So we've having a hard time on 6 this Board in trying to sort out these nuances, and now we're just going to say the districts can "figure it out"? I mean, 7 8 they may be able to, but all I know is, when I look at the data 9 for ELL students, if you look at the tenth grade data, these 10 students are being grossly underserved in this state. 11 their bilingualism. We need to know that they're achieving in 12 English and Spanish. And now we're creating rules that because 13 in my thought, I think because the questions were not posed 14 accurately, we are now reversing it such that we can hold these students back because we don't have the data to -- to call that 15 16 out. 17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We didn't have the test 18 tools -- the testing assessment tools --MS. SCHEFFEL: So that's one issue. 19 20 (Overlapping) 21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And how things develop. 22 MS. SCHEFFEL: Excuse me, that's one issue. I 23 wonder if I may raise another. 24 MADAM CHAIR: I would -- are you finished



1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, Madam Chair, I don't 2 think there was another question. 3 MS. SCHEFFEL: I think another issue that's, I 4 think, been confusing in this discussion is the ACCESS test. 5 And we're using the word "language" in many different ways. We 6 have oral language, listening and speaking, and written language, reading and writing. And when we talk about the 7 8 ACCESS test, it is not a literacy test. So to say that teachers and -- and schools will have literacy data, using 9 10 ACCESS, that can somehow take the place of the assessments that 11 -- that were able to give us the contrasting data in the 12 previous set of rules, which really are pretty much the same except for 9.01(d), is not accurate. So I think we need to be 13 14 very clear on that. That language has been very diffuse in our 15 16 The districts don't have data allowing them to discussions. 17 make the determination that this law attempts to help schools 18 and districts make, to figure out why students are not 19 achieving in reading. And they won't have that data. And the 20 ACCESS test certainly does not give them that data. And you 21 know, if we want to pull up the actual items on the test, it is 22 not a literacy assessment. 23 So I would like to know that we're supporting 24 bilingualism, biliteracy, and ELL achievement in this state.

And when you look at the data right now, it's a abysmal. And



1 to me, these rules set us back substantially. 2 MADAM CHAIR: Any reply to Deb before we move 3 on? 4 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I was -- no, Madam Chair, 5 thank you. 6 MADAM CHAIR: Pam? 7 MS. MAZANEC: The original language in the rule said that you are allowed -- districts are allowed to 8 9 assess in English and Spanish, so long as you don't supplant 10 it. I mean, it can supplement, but not replace the English 11 language assessment. Tell me why that is too much ask. UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Madam Chair? 12 13 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. 14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And we may also turn it 15 to Tony, because that is the actual question that was asked in 16 the formal opinion. But I will -- I will share that what --17 MS. MAZANEC: I'm sorry, what are -- what are 18 you saying was the actual question? 19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The question about can't 20 -- or what are rules stated, and if we had overstepped from 21 what the statute said in terms of making it a supplement. I 22 mean, a -- not supplanting the English assessment. What we 23 found in working with districts, was an unintended consequence 24 of the rules; which was that folks who are implementing 25 bilingual programs, by the fact that we were acquiring the



1 identification of a reading deficiency to be in English, there 2 was an unintended impact of having students falsely identified who were Spanish speakers in that mix, and it was a language 3 4 issue, not a literacy issue. 5 And so to allow what the opinion -- we asked 6 them for help to understand; did we overstep in our rules? And the form opinion came back and said, yes, folks should have the 7 8 ability to assess for that literacy piece in Spanish and 9 English. They could choose. So it's for that identification -10 11 (Overlapping) 12 MS. MAZANEC: But that's an "or", aren't you telling me that they actually -- what we're providing here is 13 14 an "or", not an "and". 15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Correct. They could test 16 in English --17 (Overlapping) 18 MS. MAZANEC: Why isn't there -- why isn't it an "and"? 19 20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: -- or Spanish. 21 MS. MAZANEC: Why don't we have an "and"? 22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And I'll turn it over to 23 -- to Tony, to talk about, because we looked at that option. 24 MR. DYL: Well, yeah, that's right, and I

think that the short answer to that question is that it would



1 result in unnecessary double testing. Here's the problem --2 (Overlapping) 3 MS. MAZANEC: How can it be unnecessary? 4 MR. DYL: -- and I think that Jorge Garcia 5 actually kind of drilled down into this. The original regs 6 said: In grades K-3, determination that a child has a 7 significant reading deficiency in English, will be based on. 8 This was interpreted in the field as meaning that even if you 9 have a kindergartner who speaks fluid Spanish, and doesn't know 10 English, you give them the English version, and you say, if 11 they can't finish it, that kid has a significant reading 12 deficiency. The kid might read perfectly well in Spanish, but 13 they interpret our regs to say, no, you have to make that 14 determination based solely on English. That was the original -15 - that was the original question posed. And the answer was: 16 Well, no, you're not actually looking at English literate -- at 17 English acquisition; what you're looking at is reading and 18 literacy acquisition. And in grades K-3, it's possible that there 19 20 could be kids who don't have a reading deficiency, they just 21 are reading in a different language. MS. MAZANEC: But we still want them to read 22 23 proficiently in English, even if they are reading proficiently 24 in Spanish. Do we not?

MR. DYL: Yes, we do.



1 MS. MAZANEC: And if we do, how --2 MR. DYL: There is -- and that's however, 3 where ACCESS comes in. There's actually an entire --4 (Overlapping) 5 MS. MAZANEC: It's not a reading --MR. DYL: -- system of English language 6 7 acquisition in the state. It's -- it's not part of the READ 8 Act, but it's there and presumably these -- these kids who are 9 identified as ELL, will be in both. They might be in -- they 10 will be in either a bilingual or, you know, another English 11 language program. But then you have a separate issue of 12 reading acquisition. 13 MS. FLORES: Madam Chair? 14 MADAM CHAIR: Yes. MS. FLORES: If you recall, we had a school 15 16 district that we looked at last -- the last time that we met, 17 and they had a 12 percent special ed population. And I'm sure 18 that that 12 percent population was there because they weren't 19 using instruments in Spanish, you know, to show whether -- most 20 of the time, special ed is because of reading, not usually 21 because of math or so. And I -- and I voiced a concern about a 22 large number of -- 12 percent is a large number of kids who are 23 special ed. 24 Now, had they been tested in reading in their 25 native language, it might have been a different thing. It may



(indiscernible) --

1 -- they may have gone down to three, four -- four percent. 2 this is kind of the issue that I think is before us, and why we 3 can't use the DIBELS test and so I'm so glad that we have other 4 instruments in Spanish. And we're going to look at one in 5 Chinese, and that -- that's going to help our kids. That 6 really is going to help our kids so that they are not 7 identified as special ed. 8 MADAM CHAIR: Deb? 9 MS. SCHEFFEL: Excuse me, and I think you make the exact point that needs to be made, which is why testing 10 11 needs to be in both languages. When you limit it to one 12 language, you have no contrasting data to answer the "why" 13 question at all. And that's why I feel like the two -- I mean, 14 if -- if -- if this opinion is based on the argument of the ACCESS testing, which is not literacy, and double testing, I 15 16 think it -- it's a specious argument. We are not doing double 17 testing. We are doing assessment in both languages, which is 18 what we must do --19 (Overlapping) UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We've been doing double -20 21 22 MS. SCHEFFEL: --which is what we must do to 23 identify, why the difference? 24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Double testing is



| 1  | MS. SCHEFFEL: And I think when we're only                       |
|----|---|
| 2  | teaching in Spanish, we can't get the goal of this Act, which   |
| 3  | is, proficiency in English and reading. So again, I feel like   |
| 4  | this sets us back, because we'll end up retaining students that |
| 5  | we wouldn't have otherwise retained, because we don't have the  |
| 6  | contrasting data. And not having any data during K-3, on a      |
| 7  | subset of the population that are so poorly served in our       |
| 8  | system anyway, we can't identify how they are even doing. And   |
| 9  | that was the intent of this Act.                                |
| 10 | And so I I I feel that the language                             |
| 11 | around this issue has become so unclear I'm not sure why.       |
| 12 | But again, when I look at the question in the opinion, and when |
| 13 | I look at the outcome of these adjustments in the rules, we end |
| 14 | up serving these students far less well than we are even        |
| 15 | serving them now, which is not well. So                         |
| 16 | MADAM CHAIR: Any further comments? Angelika?                    |
| 17 | MS. SCHROEDER: Well, even if we agree with                      |
| 18 | you; if the Attorney General said, that's going beyond the      |
| 19 | legislation, we can't we should not be doing that. I mean,      |
| 20 | this goes back to what is it that is our job? Which is to set   |
| 21 | rules to the legislation.                                       |
| 22 | MS. SCHEFFEL: And Madam Chair?                                  |
| 23 | MS. SCHROEDER: Am I wrong?                                      |
| 24 | (Overlapping)   |
| 25 | MADAM CHAIR: Yes.   |



25

1 MS. SCHEFFEL: Because -- because the language 2 in the opinion relates to something that didn't exist. It 3 never was English only. That wasn't the point. It was always 4 required in English and Spanish. 5 MS. SCHROEDER: I mean, I'm a little 6 flummoxed, Deb, because I don't know that I -- I mean, I can't 7 agree or disagree with you, this is not my area of expertise. 8 MS. SCHEFFEL: Well, we can point to the 9 language in the original --10 MS. SCHROEDER: My point is -- my point is 11 that what we've been told is that we went beyond the language 12 of the legislation, and this is designed to get us back on 13 track. Am I wrong? 14 MS. SCHEFFEL: Yeah, I think you're wrong, because the -- because the question was not accurate. 15 16 (Overlapping) 17 MADAM CHAIR: Steve? 18 MR. DURHAM: Thank you, Madam Chair. If I understand it, the READ Act is designed to determine whether or 19 20 not a child can read at grade level in its language neutral in 21 that determination. At least, that's the Attorney General's 22 opinion. Is that a fair assessment? 23 MR. DYL: Yes. Yes, it is.

MR. DURHAM: Even -- so its language neutral

in whether they can read in -- they can read in Spanish, they



meet the compliant -- or, they comply if they can read in 1 2 English; they comply. Is it of value, and the opinion of the 3 educators to be able to know what the proficiency is in English 4 since sooner or later that's going to get to be a critical 5 element? And is that important to do in grades K-3, and does this rule change eliminate a requirement or in fact institute a 6 requirement of -- of Spanish testing only for Spanish speakers? 7 8 And then, I guess for the Attorney, is it possible to require 9 testing in both languages if that's an issue? 10 MR. DYL: Madam Chair? 11 MADAM CHAIR: Yes, Mr. Dyl. 12 MR. DYL: There's actually the -- the second part of the opinion, which is: Who decides? Who decides which 13 14 assessment? And that -- that is under the statute left up to the local districts. And there's a reason for that. And the 15 16 reason is that there's a whole host of different types of 17 language acquisition programs. There are some programs out 18 there that use a methodology -- agree with it or not, but they'll say: We'll start with Spanish -- almost -- mostly 19 20 Spanish in the early years, and then add English later on. 21 There's other ones that are immersion 22 We start out -- we start with English, you know, 23 right off the bat. So -- well, in (indiscernible) it's kind of 24 a one -- how do we do a one-size-fits-all? And we leave it up 25 to the districts to decide what's programmatically appropriate.



1 So you might have an immersion program, what would make sense 2 to do only English, or do double testing. You have bilingual programs where that may not make as much sense in the earlier 3 4 grades. 5 MR. DURHAM: So then it's your opinion that --6 that the state of the law is that it is ultimately a district 7 decision, whether there is a test given in English to non-8 English speakers? 9 MR. DYL: Ultimately, yes. 10 MR. DURHAM: Thank you. UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible) 11 12 MADAM CHAIR: Any further questions? This concludes the rulemaking hearing, for the rules of the 13 administration of the READ Act. Is there further discussion? 14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do you want a motion? 15 16 MADAM CHAIR: Is the Board ready to adopt 17 those rules? If so, is there a motion? UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I will make one. I move 18 to approve the rules for the administration of the READ Act. 19 20 MADAM CHAIR: Is there a second? 21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I second it. 22 MADAM CHAIR: Any discussion? Shall we call 23 the roll? 24 MS. MARKEL: Steve Durham? 25 MR. DURHAM: No.



| 1  | MS. MARKEL: Val Flores?  |
|----|--|
| 2  | MS. FLORES: Yes.   |
| 3  | MS. MARKEL: Jane Goff?   |
| 4  | MS. GOFF: Yes.   |
| 5  | MS. MARKEL: Pam Mazanec?                                       |
| 6  | MS. MAZANEC: No.   |
| 7  | MS. MARKEL: Marcia Neal?                                       |
| 8  | MADAM CHAIR: Yes.  |
| 9  | MS. MARKEL: Debora. Scheffel?                                  |
| 10 | MS. SCHEFFEL: No.  |
| 11 | MS. MARKEL: Angelika Schroeder?                                |
| 12 | MS. SCHROEDER: Yes.  |
| 13 | MS. MARKEL: So Madam Chair, the motion fails                   |
| 14 | because it's not unanimous?                                    |
| 15 | MADAM CHAIR: Right.  |
| 16 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So it comes back the next                  |
| 17 | time.  |
| 18 | MADAM CHAIR: We need to we will come back                      |
| 19 | and take another vote next meeting, in which a simple majority |
| 20 | will prevail. Okay. Thank you very much. You you               |
| 21 | performed before the firing squad.                             |
| 22 | UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you.                                 |
| 23 | (Meeting adjourned)  |
| 24 |  |



| 1  | CERTIFICATE   |
|----|---|
| 2  | I, Kimberly C. McCright, Certified Vendor and             |
| 3  | Notary, do hereby certify that the above-mentioned matter |
| 4  | occurred as hereinbefore set out.                         |
| 5  | I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT the proceedings of such            |
| 6  | were reported by me or under my supervision, later        |
| 7  | reduced to typewritten form under my supervision and      |
| 8  | control and that the foregoing pages are a full, true and |
| 9  | correct transcription of the original notes.              |
| 10 | IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand           |
| 11 | and seal this 25th day of January, 2019.                  |
| 12 |   |
| 13 | /s/ Kimberly C. McCright                                  |
| 14 | Kimberly C. McCright                                      |
| 15 | Certified Vendor and Notary Public                        |
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| 17 | Verbatim Reporting & Transcription, LLC                   |
| 18 | 1322 Space Park Drive, Suite C165                         |
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