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Office of Education Policy

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TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Administrators of Public and Charter Schools
Bilingual/ELL Coordinators/Directors

FROM: Elisa Alvarez

SUBJECT: English Language Learner (ELL) Identification and Placement for
Recently Arrived Children and Youth

DATE: August 16, 2023

Communities across New York State are experiencing an influx of recently arrived and asylum-seeking students and families in advance of the 2023-24 school year. The Board of Regents and the State Education Department are committed to supporting Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in the delivery of high-quality educational services to all students, including recently arrived children and youth. This memorandum provides important information for LEAs regarding the English Language Learner (ELL) Identification and Placement Regulations, Part 154-2.3(a) and available resources to support students and families.

Available Flexibility to Identification and Placement Timelines

Due to an unanticipated increase in the enrollment of speakers of languages other than English, it is expected that some

These centers provide direct educational programs and services to migrant children at homes and in schools. They also link migrant families with necessary academic, social, and health services and provide direct services to migrant families in the areas of academic assistance, advocacy, coordination with schools and community agencies, and other outreach activities. Please use the interactive [map](#) or the [METS](#) page to find contact information for the Program Center that serves your county.