

DELLTA

**Delaware English Language Learners Teachers and Advocates**

**Helping English Language Learners Succeed**

[**www.delltade.org**](http://www.delltade.org)

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August 2, 2018

The Honorable Betsy DeVos

Secretary, United States Department of Education

400 Maryland Avenue SW

Washington, D. C. 20202

Dear Madam Secretary,

We are members of Delaware English Language Learners Teachers & Advocates (DELLTA). Our mission is to advocate quality education for students of all ages who are learning English as an additional language. We support students, educators, and families of English Learners. We offer graduation awards, seek equitable funding, and promote appropriate training for all educators who work with ELs, both mainstream teachers and EL specialists.

Our membership has in common a passion for supporting our DE English Learners, and to help them become our future successful leaders of society.

We want to emphasize that DELLTA opposes your restructuring of the U.S. Department of Education, namely collapsing the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) under the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

OELA has provided funding to states that have assisted districts and schools to hire certified Teachers of English Learners (ELs) and resources. In addition, it has provided and continues to provide guidance on English Language Acquisition, quality research, best instructional practices, and policies through the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition. What would happen to the research, best practices, and professional development, to name a few, that have been provided under OELA?

We are concerned that the merging of EL support services with other groups could diminish the services and the much-needed funding to assist states in developing educational programs for ELs. As opposed to restructuring OELA, we respectfully propose that you strengthen it.

We stand in solidarity with the eighteen organizations that wrote to you on May 9, 2018 expressing their concerns on restructuring OELA and their recommendations to strengthening it (letter [here](https://languagepolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DeVos_OELA_Reorganization_Coalition_Letter.pdf)).

We respectfully urge you to change course. Please support our English Learners and consider the unique challenges of learning another language. We need OELA to continue supporting our English learners.

Sincerely,

Oribel McFann-Mora, Ed. D.

**President**

**Delaware English Language Learners, Teachers & Advocates**

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