English Language Learners (ELLs) are the fastest growing student population in Massachusetts.

- There are 81,147 English Language Learners (ELLs) in Massachusetts public schools, making up 8.5% of the total student population.
  - 86% of districts have at least one ELL.
  - 19% of districts have 100 or more ELLs.
- While overall student enrollment has declined, the ELL population has almost doubled since 2000.

Current ELL education policies are not working.

- More than one third of English Language Learners fail to graduate in four years.
- ELLs continue to lag behind their peers in college readiness (MassCore completion), and college attendance.
- The achievement gap persists between ELLs and their peers in performance indicators including MCAS, SAT, and NAEP tests.

The language skills of Massachusetts students are being ignored and squandered.

- 18.5% of Massachusetts students speak another language in addition to English.
- Our students speak over 150 different languages at home.
- Only 3% of ELLs are in bilingual or dual language programs that develop their native language skills.
- One default program type is mandated for all English Language Learners in Massachusetts: Sheltered English Immersion (SEI). This “one-size-fits-all” model is not the best choice for all students.

Ensure that all students have the opportunity to achieve academically and succeed in the 21st century global economy.

- An Act Relative to Language Opportunity for Our Kids H.498/S.
- An Act to Establish the State Seal of Biliteracy H.422/S.