



**Lincoln Public Schools**  
**Lincoln, Massachusetts**

Mary L. Sterling, PhD.  
Assistant Superintendent

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To: Jennifer Glass, School Committee Chair; Becky McFall, Superintendent  
From: Mary Sterling, Assistant Superintendent  
Re: Policy on English literacy for teachers of English Language Learners  
Date: February 20, 2013

I want to alert you about the state requirement regarding English fluency in teachers (MA GL c 71A as amended by Chapter 386 of the Acts of 2002). We will need to add a district policy to the Lincoln Public Schools Policy Manual stating our commitment to meeting this requirement.

Some suggested language to consider is included below.

Suggested language:

In compliance with MA GL c 71A as amended by Chapter 386 of the Acts of 2002, all Lincoln Public School teachers in classrooms where English is the language of instruction, are required to demonstrate that they are fluent and literate in English. Teachers will demonstrate that they are literate in English in one or more of the following ways: a) possession of a Massachusetts teaching license, b) possession of a Bachelor's degree from a college or university where the language of instruction was English, or c) evidence of a passing score on the Massachusetts communication and literacy Test.

Fluency in English will be determined through one or more of the following:

- classroom observation and assessment by the teacher's supervisor, principal, and/or superintendent
- an interview and assessment by the teacher's supervisor, principal, and/or superintendent
- the teacher's demonstration of fluency in English through a test authorized by the Commissioner of Education