



New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE)
Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs: Tamara Alsace & Kate Menken
Executive Committee: Analy Cruz-Phommany, Ivana Espinet, Lyda Ragonese, & Maeva López-Kassem

**NYSABE Position Statement on the Need to Protect Title III Funding
for Fiscal Year 2026 and Beyond**

The New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE) is an organization whose mission is to promote and advocate for the provision of high-quality educational programs for multilingual learners (also known as English language learners) in New York State, including ensuring the availability of bilingual education. NYSABE is deeply concerned that the Trump administration has proposed for Fiscal Year 2026 to defund Title III Part A, "Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students." Title III provides federal funding to New York State and local education agencies that is essential for language instruction, academic support services, and professional development for the education of multilingual learners. This decision would be devastating for multilingual learners, their educators, and their schools in New York. This position statement outlines what Title III is and how Title III funding is used in New York to clarify what is at stake for education in our state if this funding is cut.

Part of the consolidated formula funding provided by the *Every Student Succeeds Act* of 2015 (the latest iteration of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* of 1965), Title III provides funding to support multilingual learners and their families. Title III Part A - English Language Acquisition Funding provides school districts with per-pupil funding through their State Education Agency (SEA) to support supplementary programs, professional development, educational materials, and parent engagement opportunities based on the number of students identified as English language learners. The second funding stream, Title III A - Immigrant Education, provides additional per-pupil allocations to districts (via the SEA) based on the annual increase in newly arrived immigrant students.

The loss of these funds would be calamitous for schools and school districts in New York, considering that Title III allocations can range from \$32K for a small city like Binghamton to \$800K for a "Big 5" city like Buffalo and multi-millions for New York City, with Brooklyn alone receiving about \$12 million. At risk are supplementary programs such as extended day and Saturday programs, family literacy initiatives, supplemental

English and home language instruction and other critical services and supports, described in more detail in the sections that follow.

Title III funds are used to provide essential services to multilingual learners throughout New York State. NYSABE hosted an emergency town hall meeting on July 17, 2025 about potential cuts to Title III funding, during which we gathered specific examples from NYSABE members about how Title III funds are currently being used in districts and schools across New York. These examples include the following:

- Districts statewide rely on Title III funds to provide professional development opportunities to all school educators and staff, focusing on the implementation and use of instructional strategies and practices that support and enhance language acquisition. In addition, educators are provided with opportunities to learn about topics such as working with newcomers, cultural and socio-emotional considerations, trauma-informed pedagogy, communicating with multilingual families, and much more.
- Title III funds are essential for the provision of academic support classes and extended learning opportunities for multilingual learners. For example, NYSABE members frequently described how funds are used to support before- and after-school programs as well as Saturday Academies and Summer Enrichment Programs.
 - Students engage in instructional activities or tutoring on English and home language learning, math, science, social studies, and technology.
 - Districts provide Regents test preparation and support for meeting graduation requirements to multilingual learners at the high school level. These services take place before or after school and through summer school programming.
- Supplemental staffing is often funded through Title III. English as a New Language and Home language assistants, instructional coaches, teachers on special assignment, and bilingual reading specialists are among the staff hired with these funds to support multilingual learners in their journey toward bilingualism and multiculturalism; these staff are essential for students' educational success.
- Title III funds are used to promote family engagement, which is critical for multilingual learners' success in school. School community centers, parent engagement activities, parent academies on how to support students academically, bilingual parent coordinators, and supplies are all being funded through Title III in New York.

- Title III funds in New York are used to provide other fundamental supports, such as:
 - Counseling and social-emotional support for multilingual learners
 - Curriculum development and scaffolding
 - Assessment and data management
 - Field trips/cultural events, including transportation and fees for these events

Supporting the success of all learners is at the heart of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, which has been federal law since 1965. Through its reauthorizations over the last 60 years, it has provided essential funding to support the education of multilingual learners and immigrant students in New York and across this country. Title III supports the students who have or will become the frontline workers, laborers, private and public sector professionals, and leaders that strengthen our nation today and tomorrow. Multilingual learners are key members of our communities and investing in them is investing in America's future. Failure to do so will cause irreparable harm that will be felt for generations to come.

NYSABE therefore calls upon our lawmakers to ensure that funding for Title III continues in the appropriations process or is increased in Fiscal Year 2026. We also call upon New York State legislators to increase state funding for the education of multilingual learners in the event that Title III funding is cut.