

**APPROVE TUITION PAYMENTS TO NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOR COURSEWORK LEADING TO ESL AND/OR BILINGUAL ENDORSEMENTS****THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Approve tuition payments to Northeastern Illinois University for ESL and bilingual coursework at a cost not to exceed \$354,000 in eighteen (18) months for all participating universities. Northeastern IL University is one of three universities participating in this program that were selected based on the quality of the coursework described in their proposals and the cost effectiveness of the partnerships. Each university is giving a discount with the remainder split between the Board of Education and the university provider. The other participating universities, National-Louis University and Concordia University, are authorized under separate Board Reports. No written agreement is required for tuition payments. Information pertinent to this program is stated below.

**UNIVERSITY:** Northeastern Illinois University 2  
5500 N. St. Louis Ave  
Chicago, IL 60625  
Contact: Jeanine Nthirageza, PhD  
Phone: 773-773-7330  
Alternate Phone: 773-442-5873  
Vendor # 29483

**USER:** Department of Language and Cultural  
Education (DoLCE)  
Office of Teaching and Learning  
125 S. Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60603  
Elizabeth Cardenas-Lopez, Director of DoLCE  
773-553-1938

**PAYMENT PERIOD:** Tuition payments are authorized for university courses scheduled from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** Payments cover a fraction of tuition for authorized CPS teachers enrolled in courses at participating universities under the ESL/Bilingual Endorsement Initiative. The ESL/Bilingual Endorsement Initiative provides an opportunity for CPS teachers to pursue an ESL or bilingual endorsement so that an increased number of English Learners (ELs) in CPS are taught by competent and expert educators who are able to meet the unique needs of these students. Providing an opportunity to earn an ESL or bilingual endorsement is critical to ensuring that all CPS students receive appropriate support and have access to high quality, rigorous education. Equally important, this program is essential for the district to be in compliance with Illinois state and federal laws, rules, and regulations. It is DoLCE's vision that every EL in CPS is taught by an appropriately certified, endorsed, expert teacher. Offering cohorts of teachers the opportunity to engage in the coursework together, to collaborate, and to learn with and from each other is an important step towards actualizing this vision. Northeastern Illinois University is one of the universities that provide the ESL and bilingual coursework.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Participants in the ESL/Bilingual Endorsement Initiative coursework will include CPS teachers who possess an IL teaching certificate, have demonstrated leadership skills, and desire to obtain an ESL or Bilingual Endorsement to support ELs in CPS. Participants will be selected through a competitive process; they will commit to an eighteen (18) month sequence of courses, to teaching at CPS for at least two years after obtaining their ESL or bilingual endorsement, and to maintaining at least 90% attendance and a grade of B or higher in every course.

In addition, the ESL/Bilingual Endorsement Initiative is aligned to our district goals of ensuring that every child has access to high quality teaching and learning in alignment with the Common Core State Standards. All teachers who enroll in these courses will benefit by having opportunities to become expert in using instructional strategies and providing support to ELs, thus ensuring that they gain access to rigorous content and meet the ambitious new standards.

**OUTCOMES:** The ESL/Bilingual Endorsement Initiative Coursework program will result in an increased number of educated and properly endorsed teachers of ELs in our district. This creates increased opportunities for students to learn more rigorous content and not only expand the ELs' opportunities to learn English, but will also support the development of bilingualism and biliteracy.

**COMPENSATION:** Tuition payments to all three (3) universities during the payment period shall not exceed \$354,000 total through June 30, 2015.

**AUTHORIZATION:** The Director of the Department of Language and Cultural Education is authorized to direct payments to be made to the universities as necessary.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Pursuant to Section 5.2.3 of the Remedial Program for Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise Participation in Goods and Services Contracts, tuition payments to other educational institutions are exempt from MBE/WBE review.

**LSC REVIEW:** Local School Council approval is not applicable to this report.

**FINANCIAL:** Fund 356, Unit 11500, Department of Language and Culture, FY14 \$354,000

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

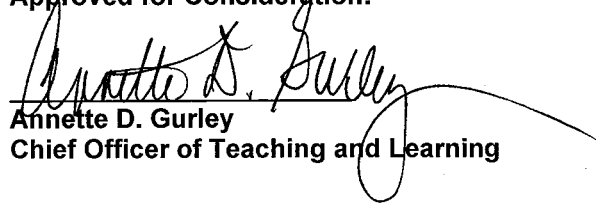
Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement. Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.


Contingent Liability – The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).


Approved for Consideration:

  
Annette D. Gurley  
Chief Officer of Teaching and Learning

Approved:

  
Barbara Byrd-Bennett *RAB*  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to legal form: 

  
James L. Bebley  
General Counsel