



Resolution in Support of California Proposition 58

Passed September 17, 2016

Under California Proposition 227 passed by voters in 1998, sweeping changes were made to how education for English language learners was to be delivered. Changes included English being the sole language of instruction, essentially eliminating bilingual education. Additionally, Proposition 227 shortened the amount of time given to students to become fluent in English, requiring students to transition into non-sheltered instruction before true fluency in English was established. The result of Proposition 227 has been non-English speaking students often failing to receive the research-based instruction that will allow them to graduate from a California high school proficient in English and ready to participate in a global economy. Proposition 58 seeks to overturn the 1998 law by allowing schools and parents to have more flexibility in how instruction is delivered, and in what language it is delivered, therefore, providing California with a population that is more prepared to participate in a global economy. The CATESOL Board of Directors, thereby, approves the following resolution:

Whereas, Proposition 227 essentially eliminated bilingual education for English language learners; and

Whereas, Proposition 58 seeks to overturn Proposition 227 by removing restrictions to language instruction, including bilingual education; and

Whereas, Proposition 58 would allow school districts to respond to some parental demands, such as providing specific types of language instruction requested by parents; and

Whereas, Proposition 58 requires districts to talk to community members about their English learner programs, the feedback to be used by districts and county Offices of Education in their yearly planning; and

Whereas, Proposition 58 removes barriers and restrictions to language education by allowing districts to adopt various methods of research-based language instruction, and stakeholder feedback;

Be it resolved that the CATESOL Board of Directors supports the passing of California Proposition 58 as a means of providing solid research-based language instruction to all learners, thereby strengthening California's workforce and the ability of the state to maintain its position within a global economy.