

In April 2013, Denver Public Schools (“DPS”) began implementing a newly revised and approved Consent Decree to improve Multilingual Learner (“MLL”) instruction to better serve DPS students. The Consent Decree describes how DPS’s Multilingual Education (“MLE”) department must provide students with the English language skills they need to meaningfully and equally participate in school.

Independent Court Monitor Role and Job Description

The Monitor is tasked with evaluating DPS’s compliance with the Consent Decree and providing semi-annual written reports to the Court regarding such compliance. As part of this role:

- The Monitor receives and reviews regular reports that DPS submits to the Plaintiffs, the Congress of Hispanic Educators (“CHE”) and the U.S. Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and may participate in meetings that inform their monitoring duties upon request by any Party.
- Prior to submitting reports to the Court, the Monitor first provides the reports to the Parties and gives them the opportunity to respond to concerns raised in the report. The Monitor may then make appropriate modifications before filing the reports.
- The Monitor may, if they deem it necessary and appropriate, participate in Plaintiff site visits, attend parent advisory committee meetings, and request/receive any other information from and confer with DPS personnel and stakeholders regarding compliance with the Consent Decree.
- The Monitor may integrate additional team members to support the monitoring work. These team members may change over time based on the area of focus, and team members may be added to assist with specific areas and reports. The Parties may approve/reject additional team members requested by the Monitor, and where the Parties do not agree to a prospective team member, the Parties will work with the Monitor to identify an alternative candidate to meet the specific need.

The ideal Court Monitor should exhibit the following Core Competencies:

- In depth understanding of applicable laws and regulations governing English learners
- Ability to remain independent while assessing compliance and implementation
- Strong organizational skills to ensure monitoring is efficiently structured
- Strong background in bilingual programming and experience in leadership in an educational setting with a proven ability to assess program effectiveness
- Ability to synthesize information and advise the Court regarding DPS’s implementation of and compliance with the Consent Decree
- Spanish bilingualism preferred
- Strong communication skills to engage with diverse stakeholders

Education Requirements:

- Master’s Degree in Bilingual, English as a Second Language (ESL), or Dual Language Education and related field experience
- Law degree and legal experience will be considered when accompanied with demonstrated history of expertise in bilingual education and educational policy and practice

Interested candidates should send CVs or resumes to the following three individuals: Tom Potvin (thomas_potvin@dpsk12.net), Rafael Hernandez-Toro (Rafael.Hernandez-Toro@usdoj.gov), and Kathy Escamilla (kathy.escamilla@colorado.edu).