

September 8, 2005

Dear Colleague:

As a local educational agency in your State, under Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act, we hope that you are aware of, and making preparations to attend the *Fourth Annual Celebrate Our Rising Stars Summit*, sponsored by The Office of English Language Acquisition, U.S. Department of Education, November 30-December 2, 2005, in Washington, D.C.

The theme of the fourth OELA Summit is “From Essential Elements to Effective Practices,” focusing on critical issues affecting English language learners, their parents, teachers, schools and communities. All participants will have the opportunity to see how the No Child Left Behind Act continues to provide the vision, tools, and means for closing the achievement gap for English language learners.

As noted by your State Educational Agency, during the years 2003 and 2004 parents were significantly and integrally involved in the OELA Summits, and many parents, parent liaison, and parent advocates, returned home, as leaders, equipped with new ideas and information to make a positive difference in their schools and communities.

This letter requests that you include parents, parent liaisons, and other parent leaders in your delegation to the 2005 OELA Summit.

A special “orientation” session for parent delegates will be conducted at the beginning of the Summit to assure that parents are provided the translation and comprehension “tools” as needed to enable them to fully participate in all phases of the Summit.

For your information, past travel and expenses for parent delegates to the Summit have been provided through various means, including the travel and training funds in sub-grantee budgets, State education agency assistance, Title I “Set-aside” funds, as well as fund-raising initiatives. We hope that expenses will not be an impediment to parental participation.

If you need more information regarding registration and other details of the Summit, please access the web address of the National Clearinghouse on English Language Acquisition, as follows: <http://www.ncela.gwu.edu>, and scroll down to “The 2005 Celebrate Our Rising Stars Summit”.

Within a short period of time after receiving this letter, please call Cathy Jackson-Hunley at 312-814-3850 if you intend to include parents in a 2005 Summit delegation .

Sincerely,

Kathleen Leos  
Assistant Deputy Secretary  
and Director