

Bengali Parent Involvement – 2010 Bengali-speaking Parent Conference and NYSABE Parent Institute

Bengali speaking ELLs comprise 4% (4,548) of the New York City ELL population, according to the 2008-09 BESIS report. This growing population resides mostly in New York City School Districts 10, 19, 20, 24, 27, 28, 29, and 30. (See [New York City Districts with Concentrated Populations of ELLs](#) for details.) Resources for the Bengali speaking population are scarce and new immigrant families are always seeking help in understanding how the American educational system works and how they can help their children to succeed in school.

On March 6, 2010, ALBETAC collaborated with the Queens UFT Office and UFT Teacher Center to offer workshops on topics such as *Understanding the New York City School System* and *What Is Your Child Learning*. Because the workshops were conducted in the Bengali language, parents felt comfortable in asking questions and expressing their opinions. Bengali Consul General in New York, Honorable Shamsul Hague (second from the left in the picture) greeted the parents and encouraged them to help their children learn English while maintaining their home culture and language. More than 100 parents and their children attended this meeting.



Bengali parents also participated in the Parent Institute at the 2010 NYSABE Annual Conference in Melville on March 11. As a concerned and involved parent group, the Bengali parents are eager to become partners with the school in helping their children succeed in school.