Evelyn DeJesus is the executive vice president of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. She was elected to the position in July 2019. DeJesus also serves as the vice president for education of the AFT's largest local, the United Federation of Teachers in New York City.

Evelyn is a fierce advocate on behalf of all English language learners and the educators who teach them. She has made that advocacy a cornerstone of her job at the United Federation of Teachers and as a member of the AFT's English Language Learners Cadre and chair of the AFT's Latino Issues Task Force. Evelyn champions the rights of English language learners, whether it's addressing teachers and parents in the Bronx or elected officials in Washington, D.C. Evelyn has earned a reputation for turning policies into action items.

Evelyn was born and raised in New York City in a Puerto Rican family where Spanish was spoken at home. She knows from personal experience what it's like to be an English language learner and the challenges and the opportunities that living in two languages and two cultures present.

Evelyn was a social worker and paraprofessional before becoming a teacher in a school in Manhattan's Chinatown with many English language learners who spoke a variety of languages and had varying degrees of English proficiency. She won wide acclaim in that position for her exemplary practices and outstanding outcomes. DeJesus was tapped to become the UFT district representative for District 2 and was subsequently chosen as the union's Manhattan borough representative, a position she held for seven years prior to becoming the vice president for education.

In her current position, she works closely with the New York State Board of Regents to improve and enhance the regulations that govern the education of English language learners.

To read more about Evelyn’s views on education and her personal and career trajectory, please refer to Evelyn's column "Leading on Latino Issues" at http://bit.ly/2gZZleo in the spring 2017 edition of the AFT's periodical American Educator.