

Bilingual Certification in New Jersey

New Jersey Department of Education

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Introduction

N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4(d) requires full-time bilingual education programs for districts that enroll 20 or more English language learners (ELLs) in any one language classification. To meet this requirement, districts must hire bilingual certified teachers to provide a full-time program of instruction in all courses or subjects that a child is required by law or rule to receive. Bilingual/Bicultural teachers must be co-certificated in the content area(s) that they teach. This document provides Bilingual/Bicultural certification considerations for districts, institutes of higher education, and candidates for certification.

Bilingual Endorsement and the Languages of Students

Sec. 3116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 states that teachers must be, “fluent in English and any other language used for instruction”. Therefore, Bilingual/Bicultural teachers must have passed the language proficiency requirements for the native language(s) of ELLs in their classroom (also called target language). Districts must evaluate the language(s) in which Bilingual/Bicultural teachers have demonstrated oral and writing competence to ensure that this requirement is met. As stated in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.5(a), Bilingual/Bicultural teachers can show oral and writing competence in the target language by:

- (1) Passing a Department-approved, nationally recognized test of oral and written proficiency in the target language; or
- (2) Establishing him or herself as a speaker of the target language who was primarily educated at the undergraduate or graduate level in that language.

English Language Proficiency Tests for Bilingual Endorsement

Bilingual/Bicultural candidates for certification must present evidence of passing oral and written English language proficiency tests (OPI & WPT). The English OPI must be passed with a score of at least Intermediate High. The English WPT must be passed with a score of at least Advanced Low when the target language WPT score is at Intermediate High. The English WPT must be passed with a score of at least Intermediate High when the target language WPT score is at Advanced Low. [Exception: Candidates for certification who pass the Department-approved basic skills test will be exempt from taking the written English language proficiency test (WPT) requirement.]

Please see <http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/endorsements/1480CE.pdf> for more information regarding Bilingual/Bicultural English language proficiency test requirements.

Target Language Proficiency Tests for Bilingual Endorsement

Bilingual/Bicultural candidates for certification must present evidence of passing oral and written language proficiency tests (OPI & WPT) in the target language. The OPI must be passed with a score of at least Advanced Low. The Target Language WPT must be passed with a score of at least Advanced Low when the English WPT score is at Intermediate High. The Target Language WPT must be passed with a

score of at least Intermediate High when the English WPT score is at Advanced Low. [Exceptions: Candidates for certification who establish themselves as a speaker of the target language who was primarily educated at the undergraduate or graduate level in that language, as determined by their submitted foreign evaluation transcript(s), will be exempt from taking the oral and written language proficiency tests (OPI & WPT) in their target language.]

Please see <http://www.state.nj.us/education/educators/license/endorsements/1480CE.pdf> for more information regarding Bilingual/Bicultural target language proficiency test requirements.

Certification and Credit for Language Arts in Grades 7-12 Bilingual Programs

All full-time bilingual and bilingual part-time programs, as defined in <http://www.nj.gov/education/bilingual/policy/ImplementingELLPrograms.pdf>, are required to provide language arts in English and the native language of ELLs. This requirement is in effect in Kindergarten through grade 12. In grades 7-12, English language arts credit requirements can be met in bilingual classes that are aligned to grade-specific language arts New Jersey Student Learning Standards. When implementing bilingual programs in grades 7-12, districts must ensure that properly certificated staff are delivering language arts instruction to ELLs in English and the native language of ELLs. Districts may fulfill the language arts requirement in grades 7-12 bilingual programs through:

- Bilingual language arts instruction with a co-certificated English and Bilingual/Bicultural teacher;
- Bilingual language arts instruction with a co-certificated English as a Second Language and Bilingual/Bicultural teacher;
- English language arts instruction with an ESL or English teacher and native language instruction in a heritage language class (see page 5 in <http://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/2014/wl/intro.pdf> for heritage language program information) with a grade-appropriate, certified World Languages teacher; and
- Basic skills bilingual language arts for students with a limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFEs) instructed by a co-certified Bilingual/Bicultural and Elementary School Grades K – 6 for up to two years (Elementary School Grades K – 6 certified teachers are qualified to teach basic skills language arts and mathematics in grades 7-12).

Any district working to provide a full-time bilingual program and/or a bilingual part time program that does not meet the language arts certification requirements must submit a bilingual waiver to the New Jersey Department of Education as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.5 (a). This requirement is in effect for bilingual waivers submitted on or after June, 30 2018.

Certifications in Dual-Language Programs (Two-Way Immersion)

According to N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2(h), a district board of education may establish dual-language (two-way immersion) bilingual education programs in its schools. To establish such a program, a district may make provisions for the coordination of instruction and services with the school district's world languages program. Dual-language bilingual education programs shall enroll ELLs and students whose primary language is English, and shall be designed to help students achieve proficiency in English and in a second language while mastering subject-matter skills. To the extent necessary, instruction shall be in all courses or subjects of study that allow students to meet all grade promotion and graduation

standards. Where possible, classes in dual-language bilingual programs shall be comprised of approximately equal numbers of ELLs and of students whose native language is English.

Certificated staff who teach in a dual-language (two-way immersion) bilingual education program may include Bilingual/Bicultural certified teachers, world language certified teachers, and other certificated teachers. Dual-language staff must teach in the content area(s) of their certification(s) and must demonstrate fluency in the language(s) of their instruction.

Co-Certificate List

The following list contains the endorsements that can be granted as co-certificates with a Bilingual/Bicultural endorsement.

Endorsement Code	Endorsement Name	Bilingual/ Bicultural Allowed as Co-Certificate	Special Notes
1001	Elementary School Teacher in Grades K - 6	Yes	Also qualified to teach reading, writing, mathematics, and spelling, for basic-skills purposes only, in grades six through 12
1005	Teacher of Supplemental Instruction in Reading and Mathematics, Grades K-8	Yes	Qualified to teach ELLs in small-group, supplemental math and reading classes K-8
1013	Preschool through Grade 3	Yes	
1102	Middle School Mathematics in Grades 5 - 8	Yes	
1103	Middle School: Science in Grades 5 - 8	Yes	
1104	Middle School: Social Studies in Grades 5 - 8	Yes	
1105 and 1110-1191	Middle School: World Language (all) 5 - 8	No	
1106	Middle School: Language Arts/Literacy Specialization in Grades 5 - 8	Yes	
1200	Art	Yes	
1300	Business: Comprehensive Business	Yes	
1301	Business: Accounting	Yes	
1302	Business: Finance/Economics/Law	Yes	
1303	Business: Keyboarding/Data Entry	Yes	
1304	Business: Computer Applications and Business-Related Information Technology	Yes	
1305	Business: Office Administration/Office Systems Technology	Yes	

1410	English	Yes	Qualified to teach K-12 language arts/literacy to ELLs
1430	Reading	Yes	
1440	Speech Arts and Dramatics	Yes	
1451	Theater	Yes	
1475	English as a Second Language	Yes	Qualified to teach K-12 language arts/literacy to ELLs
1505-1590	World Languages (all)	No	
1605	Health and Physical Education	Yes	
1610	Driver Education	Yes	
1615	Swimming and Water Safety Instructor	Yes	
1620	Health Education	Yes	
1630	Physical Education	Yes	
1635	Dance	Yes	
1705	Family and Consumer Sciences	Yes	
1706	Family and Consumer Sciences: Child and Family Development	Yes	
1707	Family and Consumer Sciences: Foods/Nutrition and Food Science	Yes	
1708	Family and Consumer Sciences: Apparel, Textiles, and Interiors	Yes	
1810	Technology Education	Yes	
1900	Mathematics	Yes	
2100	Music	Yes	
2210	Biological Science	Yes	
2220	Earth Science	Yes	
2240	Physical Science	Yes	
2250	Military Science	No	
2260	Physics	Yes	
2270	Chemistry	Yes	
2300	Social Studies	Yes	
2350	Psychology	Yes	
2415	Blind or Visually Impaired	No	Teachers with this endorsement and a bilingual/bicultural endorsement are qualified to teach ELLs with disabilities in a setting appropriate to their other content certification(s)
2422	Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Oral/Aural Communication	No	Teachers with this endorsement and a bilingual/bicultural endorsement are qualified to teach ELLs with disabilities in a setting appropriate to their other content certification(s)

2423	Deaf or Hard of Hearing: Sign Language Communication	No	Teachers with this endorsement and a bilingual/bicultural endorsement are qualified to teach ELLs with disabilities in a setting appropriate to their other content certification(s)
2475	Students with Disabilities	No	Teachers with this endorsement and a bilingual/bicultural endorsement are qualified to teach ELLs with disabilities in a setting appropriate to their other content certification(s)
2501	Agriculture, Teacher of	Yes	
2560	Marketing	Yes	