



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 12, 2023  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Bilingual/ESL Points of Contact  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Educational Services

## Code Adoption with Amendments – N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is pleased to announce that the State Board of Education approved today the adoption with amendments of [N.J.A.C. 6A:15](#), Bilingual Education, which sets forth the requirements for local educational agencies (LEAs) that identify students as multilingual learners (previously called English language learners). The amendments address the services multilingual learners need to meet or exceed the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) to reach graduation and postsecondary success.

### Overview

The NJDOE created a [brief summary](#) of the key regulatory changes, which focus on four key areas:

- Definitions, shifting to asset-based language;
- Identification, including preschool students;
- Organization, strengthening program design; and,
- Additions, building educator capacity.

The regulatory changes that were adopted today will become effective in August 2023. Over the coming months the NJDOE will develop additional guidance and resources to help LEAs support the diverse needs of our extraordinary multilingual learner population in New Jersey. The NJDOE Office of Supplemental Educational Programs will host professional learning opportunities and office hours to support LEAs as they continually improve their language instruction educational programs and implement the new requirements under Chapter 15; information about these resources will be announced in a future Broadcast memo.

For questions regarding Chapter 15, Bilingual Education, email [ML@doe.nj.gov](mailto:ML@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group  
New Jersey Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages/New Jersey Bilingual Educators