



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 15, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Bilingual/ESL Supervisors
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

N.J.A.C. 6A:15, Bilingual Education Resources

In July 2023, the NJ State Board of Education approved 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 referred to as English language learners). A brief [summary](#) of the key regulatory changes can be found on the [New Jersey Department of Education \(NJDOE\) website](#).

The amendments to N.J.A.C. 6A:15 incorporate state and federal laws that require all LEAs to ensure multilingual learners can participate meaningfully and equally in educational programs. Multilingual learners are held to the same rigorous, standards-based curricula and assessments as their English proficient peers as they are acquiring the English language.

To support the needs of multilingual learners, the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs developed a [new website](#) which provides guidance and resources for LEAs. The guidance includes information on identification and exiting procedures, assessment, preschool multilingual learners, NJ SMART requirements as well as additional resources.

Contact information

Please direct questions to the Title III/Bilingual/ESL Unit, Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at ML@doe.nj.gov. We look forward to partnering with you to support our NJ multilingual learners.

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