



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 7, 2025  
To: Local Educational Agency Leads  
Route To: Bilingual/ESL Supervisors  
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant  
Commissioner Division of  
Educational Services  
Deadline: July 31, 2025

## 2024-2025 Bilingual Program Waiver Requests

In accordance with [N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4\(b\)2](#), local education agencies (LEAs) must implement a full-time bilingual education program when enrolling 20 or more Multilingual Learners (MLs) in a single language group throughout grades kindergarten through 12. As stipulated in [N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.15\(a\)](#), if the age range, grade span and/or geographic location of the LEA's MLs make it impractical for the district to provide a full-time bilingual program, LEAs may annually submit a request to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to waive this requirement.

For the 2025-2026 school year, if the LEA enrolls 20 or more MLs in a single language group and is not currently providing or planning to provide a full-time bilingual education program, it must request a waiver to implement an alternative instruction program for the LEA's language instruction educational program (LIEP). Instructional program alternatives include, but are not limited to, a bilingual part-time program, a bilingual resource program, a bilingual tutorial, a sheltered English instruction (SEI) program, and a high-intensity English as a Second Language (ESL) program. For a description of these bilingual program alternatives, refer to [N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2](#). Before submitting a waiver request, the NJDOE encourages LEAs to review student performance data to identify the most effective program to meet the needs of their MLs. This review should include assessing the LEA's capacity to reallocate resources in support of a full-time bilingual education program.

The Bilingual Waiver State Data Submission application can be found under "Bilingual" on the NJDOE's [Homeroom](#) webpage (Bilingual link). The completed waiver request must be submitted no later than **July 31, 2025**. Please contact the LEA web user administrator for login information. The NJDOE will notify the LEA Superintendent via email when the review of the bilingual waiver application is complete.

For questions, contact the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at (609) 376-9080 or 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  
NJTESOL-NJBE