



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 6, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Bilingual/ESL Supervisors
From: Kimberly A. Murray, Ed.D., Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: July 10, 2026

2026-2027 Bilingual Program Waiver Requests

In accordance with [N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4\(b\)](#), local educational 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 LEA 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 2026-2027 school year, if the LEA will enroll 20 or more MLs in a single language group and is not currently providing or may not be able 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). 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 Request Submission application can be found under "Bilingual" on the NJDOE's [Homeroom](#) webpage. Please contact your LEA web user administrator for login information. The application has a new format for entering data to submit a waiver request, which includes the option to add a language and school, and the LIEP for each school and grade. Additionally, a one-page reference guide is available by clicking the menu bar at the top right corner to assist with this submission. In preparation for the submission, please have your county and district codes available from the NJDOE [School Directory](#), as well as the total number of students for each language by school and grade.

The completed waiver request must be submitted no later than July 10, 2026. The NJDOE will notify the LEA's Superintendent when the review of the bilingual waiver application is complete.

Contact Information

For additional questions, contact the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs at (609) 376-9080 or email ml@doe.nj.gov.