

New Jersey Department of Education



Chapter 15, Bilingual Education

Readoption with Amendments

Adoption Level

Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

Division of Educational Services

July 12, 2023



Proposed Amendments



To clarify the expectations regarding the full breadth of services, including language instruction educational programs (LIEPs), that school districts are expected to provide multilingual learners (MLs), the Department proposes amendments at adoption:

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

Proposed Changes at Adoption Level (slide 1 of 2)



Amendments

Explanation

Minor language updates

Language was amended in definitions and rules for consistency throughout the chapter. For example, "program alternative" was added to the definition of "Sheltered English Instruction" and later in the rule text minor changes were made to N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4(b) to align with proposed changes to definitions.

Step 3 of identification process

Assessing additional indicators, such as a student's reading level in English and teacher input, occurs at Step 2, the record review process. This language is removed from Step 3, testing, because it is already included in Step 2.

Identification of preschool students as MLs

The timing for when a school district may screen a preschool student for identification as a ML was adjusted to be responsive to the operational needs of a school.

"Bilingual Curriculum"

The language around curriculum is amended to clarify that a separate curriculum is not expected from school districts, rather a curriculum for bilingual education programs must be aligned to the NJSLS and delivered in the primary language of MLs enrolled in the program.





Proposed Changes at Adoption Level (slide 2 of 2)



Amendments

Explanation

High school English as a second language (ESL) course credit policy

To ensure MLs are provided clear notice about how they may meet graduation requirements and to align with N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2i, the proposed updated language supports MLs' pathways toward graduation by requiring all school districts with high schools to adopt a policy to apply credits earned in ESL courses to their world language and/or ELA credit requirements.

Dual language immersion (DLI) program teacher certification

To eliminate possible confusion regarding the regulation's requirements, proposed amendments at N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.8(b) clarify that the certificate requirements for dual language immersion programs applied only to programs designed to meet the LIEP requirements at N.J.S.A. 18A:35-18 and this chapter.



N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4(k) ESL Course Credit Policy



(k) The district [may develop and adopt a policy that sets forth] shall establish a process for how MLs in high school may meet the world language or ELA course graduation requirements, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1, by applying credits earned in an ESL course. The district board of education shall verify on a student's record that the applicable ESL credits meet or exceed the NJSLS at the high school level.

[1. If a district board of education's policy allows students to apply ESL coursework toward ELA course requirements, the applicable ESL coursework shall be aligned to grade-level NJSLS for ELA.]



N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.8(b) DLI Certification



(b) [All teachers of dual] Dual language immersion programs [shall] for the purpose of meeting the LIEP requirements at N.J.S.A. 18A:35-18 and this chapter, may be taught by one or more teachers. In these dual language immersion programs, the following endorsements to an instructional certificate shall be fulfilled by one or more teachers:

1. [Hold a valid New Jersey instructional certificate with an] **an endorsement for the appropriate grade level and/or academic content are being taught;** and

2. **An endorsement in bilingual/bicultural education or world language;**

[2]i. [Demonstrate fluency] **A teacher of a language other than English demonstrated linguistic competence in the language of their instruction, pursuant to N.J.A.C. [6A:9B-11.5; and] 6A:9B-10.5 or 11.5(a)2.**

[3. Teach in the academic content area authorized by the endorsement to their instructional certificate.]





Thank You!



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