

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Eloise Gómez Reyes

FORTY-SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

AB-1012

Bilingualism for All Act

SUMMARY

AB 1012 makes critical investments in bilingual education, beginning in early childhood and continuing through high school graduation.

children and students learn multiple languages through programs such as the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program. However, bilingual education within early childhood education and K-12 education still needs increased expansion to meet Proposition 58 goals.

EXISTING LAW/BACKGROUND

Research shows fluency in multiple languages benefits children and students by broadening their cognitive flexibility and enhancing their ability to learn. Healthy early development and academic achievement gives students the greatest chance for life success. Even more, the study of languages helps to enrich communities economically, culturally, and socially. Giving children and students the opportunity to become bi- or multi-lingual confers great benefits on them as individuals in the workforce, as well as our state as a global economic competitor. The skill sets which accompany biliteracy and multi-cultural competency are incredibly important for a child's development, and dramatically underdeveloped in California. These skills fuel our economy and strengthen our social cohesion, enriching the quality of life in communities throughout California.

California voters recognized the importance and benefits of learning multiple languages when they overwhelmingly approved Proposition 58 – the *California Education for a Global Economy Initiative* – in November 2016. Their directive to the State is clear: Promote, provide and support opportunities for all students to learn multiple languages.

State lawmakers have acknowledged and responded to this directive with critical investments in early childhood and K-12 education that expand the opportunities and support teachers and their capacity to help

THIS BILL

This bill builds on previous state investments by providing multi-year support to build the capacity of teachers to help students become bilingual and biliterate, beginning in early childhood and throughout their educational journey.

SUPPORT

California Association of Bilingual Educators (co-sponsor)
Californians Together (co-sponsor)
Early Edge California (co-sponsor)
Advancement Project (co-sponsor)

CONTACT

Amer Rashid
Legislative Aide
(916) 319-2047
amer.rashid@asm.ca.gov