

Senate Bill 952

Dual Language Immersion Schools



MONIQUE LIMÓN

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 19

THIS BILL

SB 952 provides \$15 million for 20 schools over 5 years to convert to dual language immersion (DLI) schools. The grants would allow school districts to pay the costs related to securing bilingual educators, training programs, curriculum, materials, and other necessary start-up costs. The bill also provides an additional \$500,000 for California Department of Education (CDE) to contract with technical assistance providers to support school districts with strategic planning.

The grants may be prioritized for school districts with schools that have experienced declining enrollment.

BACKGROUND

DLI schools are those that offer two languages for instruction in the classroom for both English Learners (native speakers of the target language) and native English-speakers.

In 1998, Proposition 227 emphasized English-only instruction and therefore eliminating many bilingual programs in California. This proposition was not overturned until 2016 with the passage of Proposition 58, known as the California Education for a Global Economy (Ed.G.E) Initiative, to reestablish multilingual programs in California.

Since then, DLI programs have grown in California at an exponential rate and have demonstrated cognitive, sociocultural, economic, and educational benefits for students. The success of DLI schools have led

to an increase demand for more programs, evidenced by the enrollment waitlists for these schools.

California is experiencing statewide declining enrollment in public education. Data recently released by CDE showed roughly an 160,000 pupil decrease from 2019–20 enrollment to 2020–21. Local educational agencies (LEA) have expressed concerns over the years on declining enrollment, and how it will impact state funding. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated those concerns as evidenced by the precipitous enrollment decline.

PURPOSE

This bill would provide grants to school districts to help them convert existing schools into schools that can offer DLI programs.

Dual language schools have generated high interest amongst parents. Converting an under enrolled school to a dual language school has the potential to attract and retain families in their current schools.

SB 952 provides school districts with a tool to innovate and establish school program models that are proven to promote strong academic performance among students from all backgrounds.

SUPPORT

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond (Co-Sponsor)
Californians Together (Co-Sponsor)
CABE (Co-Sponsor)

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California Language Teachers' Association
Children Now
Delta Kappa Gamma International – Chi State
Early Edge California
Parent Institute for Quality Education

OPPOSITION

None on File

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