



SUMMARY

California is home to the nation's largest population of dual language learners (DLLs). These young children have the potential to reap the academic, social, and cultural benefits of bilingualism when they are in early learning environments that effectively support the development of both the home language and English.

California's State Preschool Programs (CSPP) are already identifying and collecting data related to DLLs. There is an opportunity to use this data to ensure educators are equipped to meet the needs of the DLLs they serve by receiving much-needed professional development. AB 1947 takes another critical step in implementing the recommendations from the Governor's Master Plan for Early Learning and Care for supporting all DLLs.

BACKGROUND

Historically, there have been no statewide requirements for early childhood certification or training for working with young DLLs. In recent years, however, policies and practices in California have been evolving to recognize the value of bilingualism and respond to the need to develop an early childhood workforce that can effectively support DLLs prior to kindergarten entry. Some recent efforts to advance this work include: In 2016, California passed Proposition 58, the California Education for a Global Economy Initiative, repealing a law limiting K-12 instruction to English only. Additionally, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the California English Learner Roadmap policy in 2017. In December 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom released the Master Plan designed to transform the State's robust, mixed delivery early learning and care system. The Master Plan highlights the importance of providing culturally relevant learning experiences and high-quality language interaction in both English and the home language for DLLs in early learning settings. The Master Plan also prioritizes advancements in professional development to better prepare the early childhood workforce to provide equitable and high-quality learning experiences for all young children.

Understanding the need to support DLLs, Assemblywoman Luz Rivas authored AB 1363 (*Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 498, Statutes of 2021*), which took the first step of implementing the Master Plan by requiring the State

Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop a standardized process for California State Preschool Program providers to identify DLLs.

PROBLEM

DLLs represent a large and growing population in California's early learning programs. However, without formal certifications or training requirements, many early learning providers across California are not sufficiently prepared to work with DLLs. Research has found that specific and intentional teacher training that focuses on instruction for DLLs can lead to increases in knowledge about DLLs as well as better quality teaching practices and positive learning outcomes for DLLs.

SOLUTION

AB 1947 builds on the progress made in AB 1363 in achieving the goals of the Master Plan to identify and support DLLs. Specifically, this bill will:

- Expands the number of allowable staff training days under a CSPP contract from 2 to 6 days
- Specifies that when a CSPP contractor enrolls an 25% of DLLs and opts to provide 3 or more days of staff training, one of those days must include DLL PD
- Deems PD provided during regular hours of operation are considered days of operation to meet the minimum number of days for part-day and full-day CSPP.

CONTACT

Jose Medina, *Legislative Aide*
Jose.Medina@asm.ca.gov | (916) 319-2043

SUPPORT

Californians Together (co-sponsor)
Early Edge California (co-sponsor)