
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2023 - 2024 Regular Session

AB 1127 (Reyes) - Teachers: professional development: Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program

Version: February 15, 2023

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: July 3, 2023

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

Bill Summary: This bill extends the performance and reporting period for the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program (BTPDP) from 2024 to 2029, and requires the California Department of Education (CDE), when administering the BTPDP, to meet quarterly with grant recipients to share promising practices and resources.

Fiscal Impact: By extending the performance period for the BTPDP, this bill could result in Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressure in the low tens of millions for the state to fund it. The program was previously funded at \$10 million in the 2017-18 fiscal year. Staff notes that the SB 114 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, 2023), the education budget trailer bill, proposes an appropriation of \$20 million from the General Fund for purposes of the BTPDP. These funds would be available for grants totaling \$4 million for each fiscal year from 2023–24 to 2027–28.

The CDE estimates General Fund costs of approximately \$316,000 each year to administer the program.

Background: Existing law establishes the BTPDP, to be administered by the CDE, in consultation with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC). The law requires the CDE to issue grants to applicants through a competitive process to eligible local educational agencies (LEAs), including county offices of education (COEs), school districts, charter schools, and consortia of LEAs, for purposes of providing professional development services to teachers or paraprofessionals. The project performance period for the program is from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.

Existing law makes the following individuals eligible for support under the program:

- a) Teachers possessing a teaching credential or an education specialist credential and who either possess an authorization to provide instruction to English learners and have provided instruction solely in English-only classrooms for three years or more; or are fluent in a language other than English, and are seeking a bilingual authorization; and
- b) Paraprofessionals who are fluent in a language other than English, and who seek to work with English learners or in a bilingual program, and who intend to enter a pathway to become a credentialed teacher who holds a bilingual authorization.

Existing law requires the CDE to ensure that an applicant indicates how it plans to increase the number of teachers who obtain a bilingual authorization as a result of

participation in the program and increase the number of teachers with a bilingual authorization who return to teaching in a bilingual or multilingual setting.

Proposed Law: This bill extends the project performance period for the BTPDP grant, from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029. It also extends the dates, from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029, by which BTPDP grant recipients must report to the CDE on the number of participants who were issued bilingual authorizations, the number of previously authorized teachers who have participated in the program and subsequently returned to bilingual teaching assignments, and the number of teachers who are still working at least 50% of the time in a bilingual setting.

This bill requires the CDE, when administering the BTPDP, to meet quarterly with grant recipients to share promising practices and resources, and to resolve issues of implementation.

Related Legislation: AB 99 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 15, Statutes of 2017) established the BTPDP and required CDE to allocate \$10 million in grant funding to local educational agencies for purposes of providing professional development services to specified teachers and paraprofessionals to provide instruction to English learners.

SB 952 (Limon, 2021-22) would have revised and recasted an existing three-year competitive dual language grant program administered by CDE. SB 952 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Staff Comments: As part of the 2017 budget package, AB 99 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 15, Statutes of 2017) provided \$10 million for the BTPDP. According to the CDE, eight grants of approximately \$625,000 were awarded through the program. By extending the performance period for the program, this bill could result in similar Proposition 98 General Fund costs for the state to fund it.

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