

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Darshana R. Patel, Chair
AB 2325 (Alvarez) – As Amended March 19, 2026

AS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED

SUBJECT: Teachers: bilingual teachers: online database and pipeline

SUMMARY: Establishes the Pathways to Bilingual Teaching program, to be administered by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to award, on a competitive basis, grants to consortia of local educational agencies (LEAs), community colleges, and four-year institutions of higher education (IHEs) for the purpose of establishing or expanding existing pathways to bilingual teaching to enable bilingual students to earn a multiple or single subject, or education specialist credential with a bilingual authorization. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Establishes the Pathways to Bilingual Teaching program, to be administered by the CTC, for the purpose of increasing the number of California teachers qualified to teach in bilingual settings.
- 2) Requires the CTC to develop and implement a program to award, on a competitive basis, grants of up to \$600,000, to be expended over five years, to consortia of LEAs, community colleges, and four-year IHEs for the purpose of establishing or expanding existing pathways to bilingual teaching which enable bilingual students to earn a multiple or single subject, or education specialist credential, with a bilingual authorization.
- 3) Defines a pathway to bilingual teaching as an articulated, guided sequence of secondary education, postsecondary education, and teacher preparation, including preparation to earn a bilingual authorization, leading to employment as a bilingual teacher.
- 4) States that a pathway to bilingual teaching involves a partnership between LEAs, community colleges, and four-year IHEs to develop and implement the following sequence:
 - a) Recruitment of students by LEAs as candidates for the pathway based on their interest in teaching, including participation in a career technical education (CTE) pathway in education, and their proficiency in a language other than English, including those likely to be eligible to receive the State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB);
 - b) Partnership with a community college to use dual enrollment, including early and middle college programs, to enable these students to earn part or all of their associate's degree prior to graduation;
 - c) Partnership with an IHE with an integrated program of professional preparation into which these students transfer and in which they earn their baccalaureate degree and a multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist credential, with a bilingual authorization; and

- d) An agreement with one or more LEAs, including but not limited to LEAs enrolling students in the pathway, to hire qualified graduates of the pathway in bilingual teaching positions.
- 5) Requires the CTC to conduct outreach to eligible institutions to encourage applications and support institutions that need assistance in developing partnerships.
- 6) Requires the CTC to award one-time grants to consortia through grants to LEAs for proposals to establish new or expand existing pathways to bilingual teaching that support any proper purpose in support of the measure, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
- a) To provide teacher, administrator, and faculty release time or stipends to design the pathway and obtain any necessary agreements to implement it;
 - b) To pay for the cost of any necessary professional preparation or certification of participating teachers;
 - c) To create or redesign courses for students in a pathway to bilingual teaching; and
 - d) To design appropriate recruitment, guidance, and support strategies for students participating in the pathway.
- 7) Requires, as a condition of the receipt of a grant, a consortium to provide to the CTC program and outcome data for at least five years after receiving the grant. Requires this information to include:
- a) Program design and features;
 - b) The number of graduates;
 - c) The number and type of credentials and bilingual authorizations earned;
 - d) The time taken to earn a degree and credential;
 - e) Employment by LEAs in bilingual teaching positions, and
 - f) Any other information the CTC may require for purposes of documenting the effect of the grant and identifying effective practices in program design and implementation.
- 8) Requires the CTC to require applicants for grants to provide assurances of all of the following:
- a) A commitment to implement a planned pathway to bilingual teaching;
 - b) A plan for recruitment and retention of candidates for the pathway to bilingual teaching;

- c) Coordination with existing sources of candidate support, such as the Golden State Teacher Grant Program and other forms of financial aid;
 - d) Demonstrated commitment to develop or expand enrollment in, and access to, pathways to bilingual teaching; and
 - e) A plan to sustain the pathway to bilingual teaching after funding provided under this section expires.
- 9) Authorizes the CTC to use up to \$250,000 of funds appropriated for purposes of the act to administer the grants.
- 10) Requires the CTC to annually report to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature on the progress grant recipients have made in developing and implementing pathways to bilingual teaching, including, when appropriate, the number of teachers who have completed the pathways and are employed in bilingual settings, until funds are fully expended.
- 11) Makes the requirements of this act contingent upon the appropriation of funds for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute. States the intent of the Legislature to provide \$10 million in one-time funding for this purpose.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Through initiative statute, requires that public schools ensure that students obtain English language proficiency. Requires school districts to solicit parent and community input in developing language acquisition programs. Requires instruction to ensure English acquisition as rapidly and effectively as possible. Authorizes school districts to establish dual language immersion (DLI) programs for both native and non-native English speakers. (Education Code (EC) 305).
- 2) Defines language acquisition programs to include DLI programs to mean programs that provide integrated language learning and academic instruction for native speakers of English and native speakers of another language, with the goals of high academic achievement, first and second language proficiency, and cross-cultural understanding. (EC 306)
- 3) Establishes the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program, administered through the CTC, to ensure that California can meet the demand for bilingual teachers necessary for the implementation of dual language and other bilingual education programs. (EC 52201)
- 4) Establishes the SSB , to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. (EC 51460)
- 5) Authorizes the governing board of a California Community College (CCC) district to enter into a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership with the governing board of

a school district, county office of education (COE) or the governing body of a charter school for the purpose of offering or expanding dual enrollment opportunities for students who may not already be college bound or who are underrepresented in higher education, with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to community college for CTE or preparation for transfer, improving high school graduation rates, or helping high school students achieve college and career readiness. (EC 76004)

- 6) Requires the CTC to develop and implement a program to award, on a competitive basis, implementation or expansion grants of up to \$500,000 each to regionally accredited IHEs for developing a new integrated program of professional preparation or establishing a new partnership with California community colleges to create four-year integrated programs of professional preparation. (EC 44259.1)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. The author states, “California is uniquely positioned to leverage its linguistic diversity as a key asset. However, our education system has not fully supported this strength. AB 2325 creates the "Pathways to Bilingual Teaching" program to develop a pipeline of highly qualified bilingual teachers, so every student can succeed in a multilingual environment. By supporting high school recruitment, dual enrollment, integrated credentialing, and guaranteed employment, this bill removes barriers for multilingual students to become future bilingual teachers. It provides the resources, structure, and accountability needed to increase the number of qualified bilingual educators, foster more inclusive classrooms, and build a stronger, more equitable education system.”

Bill aims to “stack” recent policies to create an efficient and robust pathway to bilingual teaching. This bill proposes to address the state’s shortage of bilingual teachers by creating a program to provide grants to create articulated and guided pathways for high school students to become bilingual teachers. The grants would be made on a competitive basis to consortia of LEAs, community colleges, and four-year IHEs.

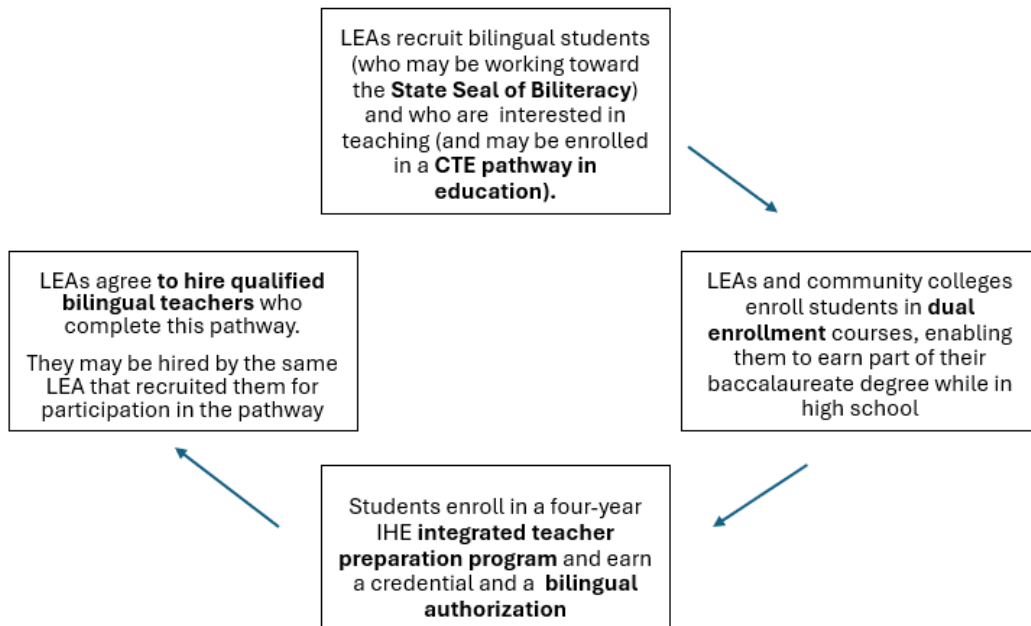
This bill proposes to “stack” several recent policies to create pathways to bilingual teaching:

- State Seal of Biliteracy: The SSB recognizes proficiency in two languages in the form of a seal affixed to students’ high school diplomas. In the 2024-25 school year nearly 76,000 students received the SSB.
- CTE Pathways in Education: The CTE Model Curriculum Standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2013, include a pathway in Education, Child Development, and Family Services sector. This bill does not create a new CTE pathway, but identifies students engaged in this CTE pathway as potential participants in the bilingual pathway.
- Dual enrollment: Dual enrollment allows high school students to take community college courses and earn credit toward their degree or a certificate. California has several forms

of dual enrollment, including CCAPs, Early College and Middle College High Schools, and individual dual enrollment.

- Integrated teacher preparation programs: Integrated teacher preparation enables college students to complete their preparation to become a teacher while earning their baccalaureate degrees. AB 181 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 52, Statutes of 2022, created an incentive grant program to develop or expand integrated preparation programs, similar to the one proposed by this bill.

The pathway supported by this bill would involve the following sequence, starting in high school:



State Seal of Biliteracy recipients are a potential source of bilingual teachers. This bill proposes to create pathways for students to become bilingual teachers, by recruiting bilingual students, including those likely to be eligible to receive the SSB, into the pathways.

The SSB, established by AB 815 (Brownley), Chapter 618, Statutes of 2011, recognizes proficiency in two languages in the form of a seal affixed to students’ high school diplomas. In the 2024-25 school year nearly 76,000 students received the SSB in over 70 languages. As the goal of bilingual and dual language immersion programs is to enable students to develop their home languages, and California students are estimated to speak over 100 languages, ***the Committee may wish to consider that*** these students are a potential source of future bilingual teachers. Californians Together, sponsor of this bill, estimates that if only 5% of SSB recipients became teachers, the state’s bilingual teaching shortage would be eliminated.

Shortage of bilingual authorized teachers. This bill proposes to support the development of pathways to bilingual teaching in order to increase the supply of bilingual teachers in California.

According to the CTC, in the 2024-25 year there were 2,302 documents authorizing bilingual teaching issued. Of those, 506 documents, or 22%, were issued to teachers who are considered underprepared because they have not yet obtained a bilingual authorization. Of those, there were 177 waivers, 277 teaching permits, and 52 university or district intern permits. As of April this year, EdJoin.com, a job listing website, listed 169 openings for bilingual certificated staff.

These data provide a limited picture of the shortage of bilingual teachers, because the availability of bilingual positions depends on LEAs' willingness to initiate DLI and other bilingual programs. LEAs are often hesitant to start such programs due to the shortage of qualified teachers.

A related constraint is the availability of bilingual teacher preparation programs. In the *Global California 2030* report, published by the California Department of Education (CDE) in 2019, the CDE set a goal of 90 bilingual teacher preparation programs. According to the CTC, in 2024-25, there were 50 such programs.

In recognition of these constraints, the state has established initiatives to increase the supply of teachers with bilingual authorizations in recent years, including through the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program, established by AB 99 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 15, Statutes of 2017, and an appropriation to the California State University (CSU) Asian Language Bilingual Teacher Education Program Consortium in the 2022-23 state budget.

Multiple policies promote biliteracy as a state goal. A number of state policies to promote biliteracy have been adopted in recent years. They include:

- The California English Learner Roadmap, adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) in 2017, promotes an assets orientation toward primary language while students are also learning English, and that these assets are “valued and built upon in culturally responsive curriculum and instruction and in programs that support, wherever possible, the development of proficiency in multiple languages.”
- The Global California 2030 report, published by the CDE in 2019, set as a goal that by 2030, half of all K–12 students would be participating in programs leading to proficiency in two or more languages, either through a class, a program, or an experience, and by 2040, three out of four students would be proficient in two or more languages, earning them a SSB.
- The SSB recognizes proficiency in two languages in the form of a seal affixed to students' high school diplomas.
- Proposition 58, passed by the voters in 2016, authorizes school districts to establish DLI programs for both native and non-native English speakers.
- The state has created and funded several programs aimed at increasing the number of DLI programs and increasing the number of teachers who hold bilingual authorizations.

Data shows growth in DLI programs and bilingual teacher supply since Proposition 58.

According to the Learning Policy Institute (LPI, 2025), California school districts find it difficult to fill vacancies with fully prepared teachers authorized to teach in bilingual settings. There are signs, however, of improvement in bilingual teacher supply and in the number of bilingual programs. According to data provided by the CDE:

- The number of bilingual teacher preparation programs has grown from 30 in 2015-16 to 90 in 2024-25. The number of bilingual authorizations issued by the CTC has grown from 581 in 2015-16 to 1,500 in 2024-25;
- There were 1,036 DLI programs in California in the 2023-24 school year. Additionally, there were 148 developmental bilingual, 60 transitional bilingual, 110 one-way immersion, and 41 heritage or indigenous language programs. These programs were offered at 1,326 schools in 294 school districts. 30% of school districts offered one or more multilingual program;
- The number of DLI programs grew from 229 in 2010-11 to 1,036 in 2023-24. The number of multilingual programs grew from 229 in 2010-11 to 1,395 in 2023-24;
- Total enrollment of English learner (EL) students in all of these programs totaled 110,847 students, representing just over 10% of all ELs. Non-EL students enrolled in these programs are not included in these totals; and
- The number of students annually receiving the SSB has grown from 10,865 in 2012-13 to nearly 76,000 in 2024-25. Over half a million Seals have been issued since the program was established.

Demand has outpaced available funding for grants to develop DLI programs. AB 130 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 44, Statutes of 2021, appropriated \$10 million for a DLI grant program, to award 25 one-time grants over a period of 3 fiscal years to eligible entities to expand or establish DLI programs.

According to the CDE, over 300 letters of intent to apply were submitted by LEAs, and the CDE received 160 applications. Funding was only sufficient to support 25 grants. The CDE cites as a barrier that some entities did not have enough native English speakers to develop DLI programs that call for a 50:50 composition of native English speakers and native speakers of the target language. This is particularly true of entities with high populations of ELs.

Arguments in support. Californians Together writes, “California serves one of the largest multilingual student populations in the country, yet the state continues to face a persistent shortage of qualified bilingual teachers.

Despite this need, the bilingual teacher workforce has not kept pace with demand. While California has more than doubled the number of bilingual authorizations issued over the last decade (from 617 in 2014-15 to 1,370 in 2023-24), there continues to be a significant mismatch between student language and bilingual teachers. According to a 2023 report from the California Budget and Policy Center, the student to bilingual teacher ratio in Spanish was 240 to 1, with significant gaps in all other languages. Global California 2030 projected the state would have 90

approved bilingual teacher preparation programs by 2025. Yet according to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, there are only 48.

California serves one of the largest multilingual student populations in the country, yet the state continues to face a persistent shortage of qualified bilingual teachers. Over 2.2 million TK-12th grade public school students speak a language other than English at home, including over one million English learners. In early childhood settings, 50 percent of preschool children come from a home where another language other than English is spoken. These multilingual children, from early childhood education to TK-12th grade, would benefit most from language-rich instruction that supports English development and home language retention.

While many students graduate from high schools with strong multilingual skills, including those who earn the State Seal of Biliteracy, there is no consistently structured and guided pathway that supports these students in becoming teachers, who often face fragmented systems across TK–12 education, community college, university preparation programs, and credentialing requirements. Without coordinated guidance, financial support, and aligned coursework, many promising candidates do not enter or complete the educator pipeline. Without targeted investment in coordinated bilingual teacher pathways, California risks continuing to face shortages that limit student access to multilingual programs and undermine efforts to expand educational equity and opportunity.

AB 2325 provides a strategic investment in sustainable bilingual educator workforce development by supporting coordinated pathways that help multilingual students become bilingual teachers and meet the growing demand for multilingual instruction across California schools.”

Related legislation. AB 2332 (Mark Gonzalez) of the 2025-26 Session would require the CDE to designate a DLI Coordinator by July 1, 2027, to provide coordination between LEAs to share resources and knowledge about DLI programs.

AB 2652 (Sharp-Collins) of the 2025-26 Session would allow a candidate for a single subject credential in World Languages, or for a bilingual authorization, to demonstrate competency in subject matter through successful completion of a language assessment maintained by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, when an assessment in that language is not administered by the CTC.

AB 865 (Gonzalez) of the 2025-26 Session would have established the DLI Education Instructional Materials Grant Program for the purpose of providing additional supports to LEAs to increase available instructional materials in partner languages for DLI programs. This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 1306 (Muratsuchi), Chapter 727, Statutes of 2025, authorizes the CTC to approve a teacher education program offered by an LEA for purposes of enabling candidates to earn a cross-cultural language and academic development certificate (CLAD) or a bilingual authorization certificate, including a California Teacher of English Learners (CTEL) program.

AB 2074 (Muratsuchi), Chapter 926, Statutes of 2024, requires the California CDE to develop a statewide implementation plan for the English Learner Roadmap Policy.

AB 154 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 43, Statutes of 2022, appropriated \$5 million for the Asian Language Bilingual Teacher Education Program Consortium with the CSU, to increase the number of credentialed teachers with Asian language bilingual authorization.

SB 952 (Limon) of the 2021-22 Session would have revised and recasted a three-year competitive DLI grant program administered by the California CDE. This bill was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 2514 (Thurmond), Chapter 763, Statutes of 2018, establishes the Pathways to Success Grant Program, for the purpose of providing grants for the establishment and expansion of DLI programs, developmental bilingual programs for ELs, and early learning dual language learners programs.

AB 130 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 44, Statutes of 2021, appropriated \$10 million for a DLI grant program, to award 25 one-time grants over a period of 3 fiscal years to eligible entities to expand or establish DLI programs.

AB 952 (Reyes) of the 2017-18 Session, as it passed this Committee, would have established the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program and requires the CDE to allocate grant funding for purposes of providing professional development services to specified teachers and paraprofessionals to provide instruction to ELs. This bill was vetoed by the Governor, who stated:

California recently provided funds to support teachers and paraprofessionals interested in becoming bilingual teachers. This past spring the Commission awarded one-time grants to higher education institutions that sought to create or improve four-year integrated teacher education programs, including for bilingual teachers. Before making additional investments on this matter, I believe it's wise to first assess the success of our current programs.

AB 99 (Committee on Budget), Chapter 15, Statutes of 2017, establishes the Bilingual Teacher Professional Development Program and requires the CDE to allocate grant funding for purposes of providing professional development services to specified teachers and paraprofessionals to provide instruction to ELs.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on this version of the bill

Opposition

None on file

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