

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2325 (Alvarez) – As Amended April 20, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill creates the Pathways to Bilingual Teaching Program, administered by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), to increase the number of qualified bilingual teachers in California by awarding grants of up to \$600,000 to consortia of local educational agencies (LEAs), community colleges, and four-year institutions of higher education to establish or expand bilingual teacher preparation pathways, contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature.

FISCAL EFFECT:

One-time Proposition 98 General Fund cost pressure of \$10 million for the Legislature to appropriate funds to support the grant program established by this bill. The bill authorizes CTC to use up to \$250,000 of funds appropriated to administer the grant program. However, according to CTC, costs associated with implementation of this bill would be approximately \$315,000 General Fund ongoing annually.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

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.

2) **Background. DLI Programs.** According to the CDE, DLI programs are language learning and academic instruction for native speakers of English and native speakers of another language. The goals of DLI programs are language proficiency and academic achievement in students' first and second languages, and cross-cultural understanding. This program is typically found in kindergarten through grade eight, but may be offered through grade twelve.

High Demand for DLI Program Funding. 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 three fiscal years to eligible entities to expand or establish DLI programs.

According to the CDE, LEAs submitted over 300 letters of intent to apply, and the CDE received 160 applications. Funding was sufficient to support only 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 equal composition of native English speakers and native speakers of the target language. This is particularly true of LEAs with high populations of ELs.

- 3) **Related Legislation.** AB 2332 (Mark Gonzalez), of the current legislative session, requires CDE to designate a DLI coordinator to provide guidance to LEAs regarding DLI program expansion. AB 2332 is pending hearing in this committee.

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