

Date of Hearing: May 6, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Buffy Wicks, Chair
AB 2332 (Mark González) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

Policy Committee: Education

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to, on or before July 1, 2027, designate a Dual Language Immersion Coordinator. The coordinator must work with local educational agencies (LEAs) seeking to establish new or existing dual language immersion (DLI) programs, facilitate collaboration among LEAs to share best practices, and establish, publish, and maintain a directory on the CDE's internet website of operative DLI programs, on or before January 1, 2028.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor and absorbable costs to the CDE. Currently, the CDE maintains a language policy and leadership office and maintains several resources and guidance for LEAs regarding DLI programs on its website.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), writing in support of this bill:

AB 2332 would help remove barriers that currently limit the expansion of these programs by creating a centralized resource within the Department of Education to connect local educational agencies, share best practices, and maintain a statewide directory of dual language immersion programs. Moreover, policies that strengthen multilingual education align closely with California's broader goals of expanding access to bilingual learning opportunities and implementing initiatives such as the English Learner Roadmap and the ELA/ELD Framework.

- 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 50:50 composition of native English speakers and native speakers of the target language. This is particularly true of LEAs with high populations of English learners.

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