Bilingual Education in Spanish
(Grades 1-6)
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Why Bilingual?

There is a growing body of research that makes clear that students who are bilingual have advantages, in the development of problem-solving skills and other areas of cognition.

Students who are bilingual can pursue opportunities in more than one language which can enhance their ability to serve both their community and their future. Bilingual educators facilitate students’ ability to be taught in both English and another language (within NYC DOE Alternative Certification Programs, most often Spanish).

Am I Eligible to Teach Childhood Bilingual?

Candidates who have advanced language proficiency in both English and Spanish and possess a bachelor’s degree in most fields are eligible to become certified in bilingual education. In addition, they must:

- Pass a written and oral exam demonstrating fluency in Spanish. This exam is administered by your university.
- Pass the Bilingual Language Proficiency Exam at the culmination of your Masters program
- Some candidates may be required to take additional coursework to earn their Initial Certification.

While you complete your master’s degree, you will work in your full-time school position under a Transitional B certificate issued by New York State. In order to earn your Bilingual Extension, you will need to take and pass the Bilingual Education Assessment (note: your university will advise you on when to register for this exam).

The Transitional B certificate is valid for up to three years, as long as you remain in good standing. To be eligible for this certification, you will need to take and pass two certification exams listed below:

1. Educating All Students (EAS) (201)
   - EAS Exam Preparation Materials
2. Multi-Subject: Teachers of Childhood CST
   - Part 1: Literacy and English Language Arts (221)
   - Part 2: Mathematics (222)
   - Part 3: Arts and Sciences (245)

-- CST Exam Preparation Materials

*Please do not start preparing unless admitted to the Alternative Certification Program*
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Helpful Links and Resources:

- Bilingual Education and ENL Standards
- More Info on Language Learners
- NY State Bilingual Common Core Initiative
- ColorinColorado
- NY State/NYC Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network

Additional Support & Insights with for Childhood Bilingual Teachers

- English Language Learner/Multilingual Learner Educator Tools and Best Practices
- Emergent Multilingual Learners in Prekindergarten Programs
- Topic Briefs: Linguistically Diverse Learners and the NYS Next Generation P-12 Learning Standards
- Theoretical Foundations of the NYS Bilingual Common Core
- Teacher's Guide to Implement the Bilingual Common Core Progressions

Related Videos:

- The Benefits of a Bilingual Brain
- Bilingual and Dual Immersion Programs 101
- ESL vs Bilingual Education
- Dual Language Immersion Pre-K
- Creating Bilingual Minds
- Successful Language Development Strategies in the Early Childhood Classroom Program for Teachers
Settings for Bilingual Education:

Programs and Services Available for English Language Learners. We offer three programs for English Language Learners:

1. Dual Language
2. Transitional Bilingual Education
3. English as a New Language

Dual Language (you can work in this setting!)
The dual language program teaches students in two languages: English and their home language, such as Spanish, Chinese, or French, among others. The home language and English are used equally. The goal of this program is for students to be able to read, write, and speak in both English and their home language.

Transitional Bilingual Education (you can work in this setting!)
The transitional bilingual education program provides reading, writing, and other classes in English and in the student’s home language. As students’ English improves, they spend more time learning in English and less time learning in their home language. Students leave the program when they are no longer identified as English Language Learners. The goal of this program is to support students’ in their home language while they fully transition to English-only instruction.

English as a New Language (you are not certified to work in this setting)
The English as a New Language program used to be called English as a Second Language or ESL. It provides instruction in English with support in the students’ home language so that they can learn to read, write, and speak English. Students from many different language backgrounds are taught together, and English may be the only common language among them. The goal of the program is to provide instruction in English with supports in the student's home language until they become English proficient.

Program Benefits
There are many benefits to these programs:
Students are able to use their home language to learn English.
Students learn to appreciate different cultures.
Students who speak two or more language are valuable to future employers.