**Bilingual Special Education (BSE)** is a specialized program for students who require an Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) or Special Class (SC) with a language of instruction other than English. These programs are intended to support English Language Learners (ELLs) who benefit from culturally and linguistically responsive instruction that addresses cognitive, academic and linguistic needs.

BSE is recommended by the student's IEP (Individual Educational Plan) team. It is a specialized program because it is not offered in every District 1-32 school. Students may need to transfer schools to receive their IEP recommended BSE program.

Candidates will be considered eligible to teach Bilingual (1-6) if they:

- Have advanced language proficiency in both English and Spanish
- Pass the written and oral exam administered by your university demonstrating fluency in Spanish.
- Pass the Bilingual Language Proficiency Exam
- 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.

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)
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)

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

- Bilingual Education & ENL Standards
- A little more on English Language Learners
- New York State Bilingual Common Core Initiative
- English Language Learners (ELL) and Bilingual Education Services
- Colorin Colorado
- Bilingual Special Ed Family Resources PDF
- NYS/NYC Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network

“What excites me most about teaching in NYC public schools is the mix of students and the opportunity to make a difference in their lives. In my school, more than 50 nationalities are represented. Most students speak Arabic, Bengali, Chinese or Spanish at home, so there’s always an opportunity to learn something new.”

- Laura W

Related Videos:

- The Benefits of a Bilingual Brain
- Cognitive Benefits of Bilingualism
- Celebrating Bilingual Special Education
- ESL vs Bilingual Education
- Diversity in Special Education
- Shaping the Way we Teach English: Bilingual Primary
- Common Core in the Bilingual Classroom