Moving Forward: Next Steps to Expand Bilingual Education in Washington State

2019 Legislation Will Look Towards:
1. Expansion of K-12 Dual Language Statewide Infrastructure and Grant Programs
2. Early Learning Dual Language ECEAP and Provider Grant Program
3. Heritage Language Grant Programs - Indigenous Language Programs and Immigrant/Refugee Heritage Language Programs
4. Retention Support Funding of Educators with Bilingual Endorsements Teaching in Dual Language Programs

Increasing K-12 Dual Language Statewide Infrastructure via Grant Expansion

To increase the number of opportunities for students to participate in dual language programs, grants to support capacity-building for new and existing dual language immersion programs need to be increased. By having program target languages be one of the top 5 languages spoken in the community, we will better meet the need of the diversity of languages in our districts. Funds will support start-up costs for 10 or more new dual language programs and support expansion costs for 10 or more existing dual language programs. Grantees will convene a joint community-district advisory board to guide the development and continuous improvement of the DL program and there will be emphasis on including parents of ELL students in the dual language program and other members of the advisory board including teachers, students, district leaders, school board members, and/or community based organizations.

In development will be an aligned system of dual language standards and assessments to promote equitable assessment of ELL students, as well as opportunities for more collaboration statewide between dual language teachers and administrators.

Early Learning Dual Language Provider and ECEAP Grant Program

To support bilingualism from an early age and expand the number of dual language early learning programs, grants will be made available to childcare providers and ECEAP programs. These dual language programs will provide content-based instruction to students in two languages: English and a target language other than English spoken in the local community, for example Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, Russian, Arabic, native languages, or indigenous languages. At least 50 percent of the instruction must be in the target language and gives priority to English Language Learners. Grant funds can be used to support professional development and capacity-building activities including, but not limited to curriculum development, training and professional development for teachers, coaches, and supervisors, and materials.
Indigenous Language Programs and Immigrant/Refugee Heritage Language Innovation Programs

A heritage language is a language other than English spoken by an individual, a family, or a community, including indigenous languages of native communities or home languages of immigrant or refugee communities. A heritage language program is designed to support language development of heritage language learners in the target language. Capacity-building grants to support both indigenous languages for Native American students as well as heritage language development of immigrant and refugee students will be administered. There will be a focus on outreach to all eight of Washington State's tribal-compact schools, the Tribal Councils, and the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education and applicants may be tribal compact schools, or school districts in partnership with a nation/tribe.

For immigrant/refugee heritage language programs, the program must be aimed at supporting ELLs, and the target language must be one of the top 5 most represented languages in the community that does not already have existing language enrichment opportunities for that language in local schools (such as a DLL program). Programs may be provided by the school district or a district partnership with a community-based organization (CBO) or ESD. and can include before or after school, weekends or summer programs, or classes during the school day.

In order to encourage and support more students to be bilingual and biliterate, these programs allow for innovative ideas on how we build bilingualism and biliteracy. To do this, programs will integrate student and family awareness of the World Language Credit Program and Seal of Biliteracy, and provide a pathway to attainment if the heritage language program at the high school level.

Funding to Retain Educators with Bilingual Endorsements Teaching in Dual Language Programs

To complement recruitment and pathways efforts of the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB), funding shall be made available to support retention of dual language educators. Possibilities include bonus awards to teachers with a bilingual endorsement who complete one year of teaching in a two-way or one-way dual language program designed to support ELL students. This type up funding would help increase the number of bilingual endorsed teachers in dual language programs.