

# Serving Multilingual or English Learner Students

Multilingual students or English Learners are students who have not yet attained full proficiency in English. Students designated in these categories must be taught by teachers that hold an English Learner Authorization. If an educator has even one English Learner in the classroom, they must hold the appropriate authorization to serve them in accordance with California law. English Learner students make up a significant portion of California public school students. According to data collected in 2022 by the California Department of Education (CDE), English Learners make up 19% of the total enrollment in California public schools, and students who speak a language other than English in their homes make up about 40%! Half of these are learning English currently while the other half have now mastered the language. According to the California Basic Educational Data System, there are currently about 750 dual-immersion programs in California.

## English Learner Services

There are a few types of English Learner services available depending on students' needs. The types of services are listed below in order from least to greatest coverage of English Learner services. In this credential authorization structure, the authorizations are nested; each subsequent authorization covers its own services as well as the one(s) listed before it:

- ▶ **Integrated ELD:** Instruction in which the state-adopted English Language Development (ELD) standards are used in tandem with the state-adopted academic content standards. Integrated ELD includes specifically designed academic instruction in English (SDAIE).
- ▶ **Designated ELD:** Instruction provided during a time during the regular school day for focused instruction on the state-adopted ELD standards to assist English learners to develop critical English language skills necessary for academic content learning in English. In other words, ELD within course and content area.
- ▶ **Departmentalized ELD:** English Language Development offered in a standalone departmentalized classroom.
- ▶ **Bilingual Instruction:** Instruction for primary language development and content instruction delivered in the primary language.

## Earning Your English Learner Authorization

### *California Prepared*

Everyone who completes a California teaching credential program will have an English Learner Authorization attached to their credential because the training is embedded as part of the program.

In most cases, this will be a **Limited English Learner Authorization** that allows educators to teach integrated and designated ELD. With this authorization, you teach classes not focused specifically on helping English Learner students learn English, but you have English Learner students in your class. This amounts to teaching the subject(s) listed on your credential to English Learner students (for example, if you are a high school Math teacher who teaches Math and has English Learner students in your class who are also learning Math along with all your other students). This authorization does not allow you to teach Departmentalized ELD in a standalone classroom designed to help English Learner students develop English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

If you want to fully serve English Learner students, you will need a **Full English Learner Authorization**, which covers Departmentalized ELD as well as everything that the limited authorization allows. To earn this authorization, you may need to either complete additional coursework in your program or take additional exams (called the [CTELs](#)) to obtain it. If this is what you would like to do in your career, work closely with your credential program to ensure you are on the right path.

Finally, if you want to teach in both English and the student's primary language, you will need the **Bilingual Authorization**. Bilingual Authorizations are issued in a specific non-English language. For example, the Bilingual Authorization in Spanish or Korean. Along with target language instruction, this authorization allows the educator to provide any type of English Learner services. You can obtain this authorization through completing the CTET and the CSET language exams in the target language.<sup>1</sup> If you're fluent in another language, obtaining a Bilingual Authorization can be a great asset to you in finding a teaching position, to the school that hires you, and to your students!

# Serving Multilingual or English Learner Students

## *Out-of-State or Out-of-Country Prepared*

If you transferred your teaching credential from another state or country, your California credential will be issued with an English Learner Authorization if you had an equivalent out-of-state or out-of-country English Learner Authorization or Bilingual Authorization.<sup>2</sup> If you don't have a transferable authorization, to earn the English Learner Authorization, you must complete the CTEL exams or coursework in a CTEL program. To earn the Bilingual Authorization, you must complete both the CTEL and target language proficiency. Target language proficiency is commonly met through passing the CSET language exams in the target language, although if you hold a three-year or higher degree from a foreign institution that is equivalent to a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. in which all instruction is delivered in a language other than English, you are exempt from taking either CSET Subtest II or III in the target language.<sup>3</sup>

## Emergency Permit Options

If you want to work before you have earned an English Learner Authorization or a Bilingual Authorization, your employing local education agency (LEA) can help you apply for the type of authorization that's needed for your position.

### *Emergency CLAD Permit*

Usually, if you are teaching in a non-bilingual assignment, you will need an **Emergency CLAD Permit**. This permit is considered a Full English Learner Authorization that allows you to teach Departmentalized ELD and also covers everything that the Limited English Learner Authorization does. You can teach English Learners under this permit while you work toward obtaining the permanent authorization. The permit may only be applied for through a LEA, so work with your employer if you are interested in issuance. It is valid for one year, and once the Basic Skills Requirement has been met, can be renewed for a total of three permits. More information about this permit, as well as how to apply, can be found on [CL-5330-CLAD-BL](#).

### *Emergency Bilingual Authorization Permit*

To be authorized to teach in a bilingual assignment, you will need an Emergency Bilingual Authorization Permit. This permit authorizes you to provide Bilingual Instruction while you work on obtaining the permanent authorization. Like the Emergency CLAD Permit, this permit may only be applied for through your employing LEA and you must have a valid base credential. It is valid for one year, and once the Basic Skills Requirement has been met, can be renewed for a total of three permits. More information about this permit, as well as how to apply, can be found on [CL-5330-CLAD-BL](#).



## Connect with an Education Career Counselor

The Commission's team of Education Career Counselors is here to guide you in beginning or continuing an exciting career in education. We're here to explain the teacher preparation process, assist you in creating your plan to become a credentialed teacher, provide guidance if you're coming from another state or country, and help you advance your career path. To connect with a member of our team, please use the QR code to fill out the form. We look forward to speaking with you regarding credentialing and education career opportunities!



<sup>1</sup> To determine which CSET exams are required for a specific target language, see Table 1 in [CL-628B](#).

<sup>2</sup> For a list of comparable out-of-state English Learner Authorizations and Bilingual Authorizations, see the chart at the end of [CL-826C](#) and Table 2 at the end of [CL-628B](#).

<sup>3</sup> It will be different depending on the target language, so if this applies to you, see Note [1] from Table 1 in [CL-628B](#) to learn which subtest you are exempt from.