

Early Learning Dual Language Designation

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does a dual language designation mean?

A: Section 305 of the Fair Start for Kids Act called for DCYF to establish a dual language designation. A dual language designation means an early learning program is recognized for providing dual language instruction in their care environment. Providers with a dual language designation will be eligible for funding. DCYF is working with culturally, linguistically, and regionally diverse advisory groups to create designation standards that align with and build on the Early Achievers Quality Standards, ECEAP Performance Standards, Head Start Policies, and Dual Language Guiding Principles. Designated programs can receive funding to build on the dual language supports they already provide to children and families.

Q: What can I use the money for?

A: The funding can be used to increase wages for individual staff who provide bilingual instruction, job-embedded professional development and planning time, training, curricula, educational materials, and other related expenses.

Q: Who can apply for the dual language designation?

A: ECEAP and early ECEAP contractors, and licensed and certified child care providers that provide dual language support and accept state subsidy can apply for designation. The designation will be tiered so that programs in different stages of development can also apply.

Q: When can I apply for the dual language designation?

A: The dual language designation will be established by June 30, 2022. DCYF will release information on the application process for all Fair Start for Kids Act awards soon.

Q: I am interested in starting or expanding my dual language program. What supports and trainings are available?

A: DCYF joined the WIDA Early Years Consortium. WIDA is a research-based and educator-informed resource hub for professionals who work with multilingual children and families. Membership in WIDA will provide free training opportunities in multiple languages for any early learning professional in Washington State, including teachers, family home providers, and coaches. WIDA will also provide self-paced eLearning opportunities and a vast resource library of printable materials in multiple languages.

DCYF's Dual Language Learner training is also available to support early learning professionals. Email Athena.Jimenez-Manalo@dcyf.wa.gov to get connected with a trainer!



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