Bilingual Program Waiver Request 2019-2020

New Jersey’s Bilingual Education Law requires that districts implement a full-time bilingual education program when enrolling 20 or more English language learners (ELLs) in a single language group throughout grades kindergarten through 12. As stipulated in N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4(d), if the age range, grade span and/or geographic location of the district’s ELLs make it impractical for the district to provide a full-time bilingual program, districts may annually submit a request to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to waive this requirement.

For the 2019-2020 school year, if your district enrolls 20 or more ELLs in a single language group, and is not currently providing or planning to provide a full-time bilingual education program, it must request a waiver in order to implement an alternative bilingual instructional program. Instructional program alternatives include, but are not limited to, a part-time bilingual program, a bilingual resource program, a bilingual tutorial, a sheltered English instruction program, and a high-intensity ESL program. For a description of these bilingual program alternatives refer to N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2. Before submitting a waiver request, the NJDOE encourages districts to review student performance data to identify the most effective program to meet the needs of its English language learners. This review should include assessing the district’s capacity to reallocate resources in support of a full-time bilingual education program.

The Bilingual Waiver State Data Submission application can be found via the “Bilingual Waiver Request Submission” link on the NJDOE’s Homeroom webpage. The completed waiver request must be submitted no later than June 28, 2019. Please contact your district web user administrator for login information. For district staff who completed the bilingual waiver online for the 2018-2019 school year, the login information remains the same. When the review of your district’s bilingual waiver application is completed, the NJDOE will notify you of the status via email.

If you have any questions, you can call the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education at (609) 376-9080 or email ell@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
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   NJDOE Staff
   Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
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   NJ LEE Group