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| **Name of Grant Program:** Alternative English Learner Education Programs – All levels | **Fund Code:** 187  |

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you are applying for a new alternative bilingual program, please complete the program plan for review by the Department by November 15, 2021 and email it to diana.gentile@mass.gov.

The Language Opportunity for Our Kids [(LOOK)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/look-act.html) Act of 2017 is designed to improve the education of English learners (ELs). It creates an opportunity for districts to consider the programmatic needs of English Learners (ELs) in a variety of ways, including the annual opportunity to submit proposals to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to implement new alternative English learner education (ELE) programs for ELs (603 CMR 14.04(4)) such as bilingual education.

DESE recognizes three ELE program types as sound under prong one of the [Castañeda test](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/guidance/?section=guidance):

* [Dual Language Education (DLE)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/programs/dle.html)
* [Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/programs/tbe.html)
* [Sheltered English Immersion (SEI)](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/programs/sei.html)

Note: Other bilingual program types may be approved by the Department if the district is able to substantiate that the proposed program is based on sound educational theory.

At present, one of the challenges facing districts wishing to implement a new bilingual (DLE or TBE) program is that there is an insufficient number of qualified bilingual endorsed teachers in the state to staff any potential increase in bilingual education programs.

What is a Bilingual Education Hub?

* A partnership between one or more public school districts and an institute of higher education (IHE) to create an innovative program to increase the number of qualified bilingual education teachers in Massachusetts.
* Hubs will create rich learning environments to attract candidates with great potential to become bilingual education teachers and support them to earn the [bilingual education endorsement](https://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/endorsements/bilingual-ed.html).
* Candidates will include students, parents, community members, paraprofessionals, teachers, and school administrators who are bilingual.
* Hubs will surround candidates with necessary supports, including experts in bilingual education, no-cost access to coursework delivered locally and at times convenient for working professionals, and direct information about available job opportunities.

There is no 'one size fits all' model for bilingual education hubs, as local conditions, priorities, and rationales vary from district to district. Applicants considering applying for this grant should describe precisely how they wish to construct their hub and DESE will evaluate the description.

Note: These are the forms that districts will ultimately submit to the Department for approval of their new programs and are provided as reference documents in support of that intended outcome. They are not required to be submitted with the grant proposals.

[Preliminary ELE Program Proposal](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/resources/proposal/preliminary.docx)

[New English Learner Education (ELE) Program Complete Proposal](https://www.doe.mass.edu/ele/resources/proposal/newcomplete.docx)

Any grant related questions must be emailed to Diana Gentile.