**Bilingual Education Endorsement FAQs**

**Q: What are the Core Academic teaching fields for Bilingual Education?**

**A:** For purposes of Sheltered English Immersion instruction and Bilingual Education, early childhood and elementary teachers, teachers of students with moderate disabilities, teachers of students with severe disabilities, and teachers of the following academic subjects: English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, civics and government, economics, history, and geography.

**Q: A core academic teacher assigned to provide instruction to an English learner in a bilingual education setting must be properly qualified in the field and grade level of the assignment, and hold the appropriate endorsement. What does Properly Qualified mean?**

**A:** Properly Qualified means that a teacher must hold the appropriate (Field and grade level) core academic license. For example, Math 5-8. A math teacher providing instruction in a language other than English must hold the Bilingual Education Endorsement (BEE) associated with the language of instruction and the Math 5-8 teacher license. In lieu of the BEE, possession of a valid Transitional Bilingual Education license or Transitional Bilingual Learning endorsement associated with the language of instruction is acceptable.

**Q: If I possess a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) license or a Transitional Bilingual Learning (TBL) endorsement issued by the Department, can I earn a Bilingual Education Endorsement for the same target language of the credential I hold?**

**A:** No, the credential held serves the same function as the Bilingual Education Endorsement sought.

**Q: If I possess a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) license or a Transitional Bilingual Learning (TBL) endorsement issued by the Department, can I earn a Bilingual Education Endorsement for a different target language then that of the credential I hold?**

**A**:Yes**,** the Bilingual Education Endorsement earned would be in a different target language; thus serving an additional function.

**Q: Can the three years of employment in a bilingual education setting by June 30, 2020, that may exempt individuals from certain requirements for the Bilingual Education Endorsement occur outside of Massachusetts? Does this employment need to be in the role of a teacher?**

**A:** This employment may occur in any public or private (Prek-12) bilingual education setting in the United States. This employment must be in the role of a teacher.

**Q: Completing a Department-approved course of study is a way to demonstrate the subject matter knowledge and skill requirements of the Bilingual Education Endorsement. How can I find more information about this option?**

**A:**  You can locate course providers using the following directions while using the "Find a Preparation Program" directory. First, for Select Field, choose Endorsements and then for the next Select Field, choose Bilingual Education (do not choose Bilingual Education associated with any specific foreign language). For Select Level, choose level depends on prereq license. For Select Program, choose Endorsement, then click on Search. The "Find a Preparation Program" directory can be found at [www.doe.mass.edu/teach/edprep.html](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CRCC.MSD%5CDownloads%5Cwww.doe.mass.edu%5Cteach%5Cedprep.html). You can learn about additional requirements to earn this endorsement in the [Licensure Requirements Tool](https://gateway.edu.state.ma.us/elar/licensurehelp/LicenseRequirementsCriteriaPageControl.ser).

**Q: I heard a passing score on a test acceptable to the Department is a way to demonstrate the subject matter knowledge and skill requirements of the Bilingual Education Endorsement. How can I find more information about this option?**

**A:**  A passing score on the Bilingual Education Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) will satisfy the requirement noted above. Your test result is automatically reported to the Office of Educator Licensure by the testing company. You can find information on test registration, test preparation, and other test-related information at [www.mtel.nesinc.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CRCC.MSD%5CDownloads%5Cwww.mtel.nesinc.com). You can learn about additional requirements to earn this endorsement in the [Licensure Requirements Tool](https://gateway.edu.state.ma.us/elar/licensurehelp/LicenseRequirementsCriteriaPageControl.ser).

**Q: I hold a Bilingual Education Endorsement in a specific target language. How do I earn an additional Bilingual Education Endorsement in a different target language?**

**A:** You may earn an additional Bilingual Education Endorsement in a different target language by achieving a passing score on a relevant foreign language test acceptable to the Department.

#### **Q: What test(s) satisfies achieve a passing score on a foreign language test acceptable to the Department in the relevant foreign language?**

A: Those seeking the Bilingual Education [American Sign Language] Endorsement can satisfy the test requirement noted above through a passing score on the Sign Language Proficiency Interview for American Sign Language test (SLPI). You can find information about the SLPI at <http://www.rit.edu/ntid/slpi/home>.

Individuals seeking any other Bilingual Education Endorsement can satisfy the test requirement noted above by achieving a passing score on the corresponding MTEL or by passing the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) offered through the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (those that are in place).

Individuals who apply and satisfy all other requirements are not required to pass the WPT if granted the Endorsement prior to the WPT for the target language of the endorsement becoming available.

You can find information about MTEL [here](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel/) . Information about the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) can be found [here](http://www.actfl.org/assessment-professional-development/assessments-the-actfl-testing-office).

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| **Language** | **MTEL** | **OPI** | **And WPT (If in Place)**  |
| **Arabic** | Not in Place |  |  |
| **Armenian** | Not in Place |  | Not in Place |
| **Cape Verdean** | Not in Place | * (see \* below)
 | Not in Place |
| **Chinese (Mandarin)** |  |  |  |
| **Haitian Creole**  | Not in Place |  |  |
| **French** |  |  |  |
| **German** |  |  |  |
| **Greek**  | Not in Place |  |  |
| **Hebrew** | Not in Place |  |  |
| **Hmong** | Not in Place |  | Not in Place |
| **Hungarian** | Not in Place |  | Not in Place |
| **Italian** |  |  |  |
| **Japanese** | Not in Place |  |  |
| **Khmer** | Not in Place |  | Not in Place |
| **Korean** | Not in Place |  |  |
| **Polish** | Not in Place |  |  |
| **Portuguese** |  |  |  |
| **Russian** |  |  |  |
| **Spanish** |  |  |  |
| **Ukrainian** | Not in Place |  | Not in Place |
| **Vietnamese** | Not in Place |  |  |

* = noted test is in place

\*To order the Cape Verdean OPI please contact Ed Weisman at EWeisman@languagetesting.com. Please note that the OPI is only available to educators seeking the MA Endorsement.

#### **Q: How do applicants document their preparation for the Bilingual Education Endorsement obtained outside of Massachusetts?**

**A:** Applicants prepared for the Bilingual Education Endorsement outside of Massachusetts through the completion of a bilingual educator preparation program at least comparable to an Initial license in Massachusetts, should upload an official transcript and an endorsement from the program for review. The endorsement must specify the license/certificate field and grade level(s) of the educator preparation program completed. This information may be included on an official transcript, in a letter written on official letterhead signed by the Registrar, Dean, or Certification/Licensure Officer or on the Verification of Completion of an [Approved Educator Preparation Program Outside of Massachusetts form](http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/academic-prek12/form-verify-oos-approve-prep-program.docx) found at [www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/forms-guidelines.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/licensure/forms-guidelines.html).

Applicants prepared through possession of an out-of-state credential that is comparable to the Bilingual Education Endorsement should upload a copy of the credential for review. Individuals who cannot forward a copy of the credential should upload or mail a signed letter written on official letterhead from the issuing authority stating the field, grade level, type, and validity of the credential. The letter must be on official letterhead signed by an authorized signatory. Individuals who cannot forward either of the aforementioned should forward a copy of the issuing authority's electronic file verifying the valid credential held, along with the official URL for that file.