

CTA Board Report to CABE

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Language Acquisition Committee

Members of the committee discussed the issue that many low-income students, especially Latinx students are not enrolling in Dual Immersion Programs. Latinx families have been told for many years to speak English since it is the dominant language. Spanish Speaking parents have seldom been told of the benefits of being bilingual. We watched a presentation on *Alas y Voces* that informs the parents of the benefits of bilingualism.

CTA published a guide “Implementation of Prop 58” targeting teachers and school districts. The Committee is now working on a guide for parents.

The Committee also discussed the study *The Truth of Bilingualism: It is only for some students* <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2019/01/09/the-truth-about-bilingualism-its-only-for.html>.

There is discrepancy in different states regarding the implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy. The authors found that affluent schools have the highest probability of offering the Seal.

The state of Washington is an exception—and its approach may offer a path forward for states looking to push for equity.

The state’s education department has launched a campaign, and a \$250,000 funding request, to cover language-proficiency testing fees for low-income students—opening an avenue for all students to demonstrate their fluency in their home languages. The state legislature could take up the issue early in 2019.

Washington already offers competency tests in languages such as Vietnamese, Somali, Punjabi, Tagalog, Romanian, and Amharic. The availability of those tests is already paying off.

Washington is also one of the few states that tracks the demographics of students who earn the seal of biliteracy. To date, roughly 20 percent of the 7,000 students

who've earned the state seal of biliteracy there were current or former English-learners,

Legislation

CTA lobbied legislators on behalf of the following Bills:

AB 1505 ensures local communities to control the authorization of charter schools and consider the financial and economic impact of neighborhood public schools.

AB 1506 establishes a cap on the unregulated growth of charter schools and aligns with the intent of the original law that required agreement of educators, parents and community.

AB 1507 closes a loophole that allows a charter school to operate in a district where it has not been authorized.