



2024-2025

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“Biliteracy, Multicultural Competency, & Educational Equity for All”

March 6, 2025

On March 1, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order making English the “official language” of the United States. The order rescinds a 2000 Executive Order which required federal agencies to provide translation and interpretation as necessary to ensure that their services were accessible to everyone. The new Executive Order requires the Attorney General to provide updated guidance, but explicitly states that it **does not** require federal agencies to change the services they provide or to stop producing documents or offering services in languages other than English.

The new Executive Order does nothing to alter the rights of English learners in California schools. The federal courts have repeatedly affirmed the importance of giving all students access to all of the benefits of an education and required schools to teach English learner students English and provide them instruction in all academic subjects. The Executive Order does not affect these rulings. California schools are still expected to implement the English Learner Roadmap Policy, which was adopted by the State Board of Education in 2017 and affirmed by the state legislature in 2024. California law continues to require that all notices to parents be translated into any language spoken by 15 percent or more of the students at a school. The Executive Order does not require or allow school districts to stop complying with California law or policy.

We note that English was declared the official language of California in 1986 with the passage of Proposition 63. Its passage has had no impact on the educational rights and opportunities for students in our schools or on the rights of their parents to participate in their children’s education. CABE joins the state of California in its continued commitment to multilingual education for all students to prepare them to live, work and thrive in a global society.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raúl Maldonado  
CABE Board President

Dr. Edgar Lampkin  
CABE Chief Executive Officer