



## Region 2 Representative Candidate

# NESTOR HENRRIQUEZ

### Personal Statement

As a Los Angeles native raised in a single-parent immigrant household, my journey into education has always been rooted in understanding the power of language, culture, and opportunity. This perspective led me to the Central Valley, where I attended UC Merced to earn my bachelor's degree and later obtained my teaching credential from CSU Stanislaus. I began working with immigrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking students in Modesto, where I quickly saw how systemic changes are needed to remove barriers for multilingual learners. These experiences, along with moments advocating for students who were denied equitable access to schooling, shaped my commitment to this work.

My vision for CABE is deeply aligned with its focus on biliteracy, multicultural competency, and educational equity. I believe multilingualism is a strength that should be intentionally developed through strong dual language programs and systems that truly value students' cultural and linguistic assets. For me, this belief is not only professional, but also personal. As a parent, I have my son enrolled in a dual language program at Merced County Dual Language Academy, where he is currently in the fourth grade. I see every day the impact that biliteracy and culturally affirming education can have, and it reinforces why this work matters so much.

Throughout my career, I have worked across systems to support English Learners and multilingual students. As an ELA/ELD Coordinator, and now as a State and Federal Coordinator at the Merced County Office of Education, I support districts in implementing the California English Learner Roadmap and ensuring compliance efforts translate into sustainable systems that truly meet the needs of multilingual learners. My work is centered on helping districts move beyond compliance and toward meaningful, equitable practices that truly support students. I strongly believe in building community and shared leadership. Through my role as President of the Central Valley Dual Language CABE Chapter #15, my work with the California Newcomer Network Advisory Committee, and my experience as a Teach Plus Fellow, I have

collaborated with educators, families, and leaders across the region. Projects like the development of Graduation Pathways for English Learners reflect my commitment to ensuring students have access to multiple pathways, including college, career, and biliteracy. CAFE's values of equity, servant leadership, respect, and cultural and linguistic human rights are values I strive to embody in my work every day. Whether I am supporting districts, teaching future educators, or working alongside families, my goal is always to advocate, support, and empower. I believe in building systems where students are seen as assets, families are true partners, and educators are equipped to meet the needs of diverse learners. I am committed to continuing this work with CAFE by strengthening dual language programs, elevating the voices of multilingual communities, and ensuring that every student has access to an education that prepares them for success in school and in life.

I believe deeply in the power of biliteracy and equitable access, where multilingualism is recognized as a strength for all students. As both an educator and a parent of a child in a dual language program, I am committed to advancing this work. I aim to support educators, strengthen programs, and elevate the voices of our communities in Region 2 to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed.

## Testimonio personal

Mi nombre es Nestor Henrriquez, y creo profundamente en el poder del bilingüismo y en el acceso equitativo, donde el multilingüismo se reconoce como una fortaleza para todos los estudiantes. Como educador y padre de un niño que participa en un programa de inmersión en dos idiomas, estoy comprometido con avanzar este trabajo. Mi objetivo es apoyar a los educadores, fortalecer los programas y elevar las voces de nuestras comunidades en la Región 2 para asegurar que cada estudiante tenga la oportunidad de tener éxito.