



## Director of Parent Relations Candidate

**MARYANNA LEE**

### Personal Statement

My vision for the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) is to continue strengthening its role as a leading advocate for multilingual education while expanding opportunities for students and families to fully benefit from biliteracy and multicultural learning. CABE has been instrumental in supporting educators, advancing policy, and creating professional networks that promote equity for multilingual learners. I believe CABE must continue to elevate programs that honor students' linguistic and cultural assets while strengthening partnerships between schools and families.

This year marks my twentieth year in education within the Anaheim Union High School District. I began my career as a Spanish teacher working with heritage and native Spanish speakers. Teaching these students reinforced my belief that language is deeply connected to identity, culture, and belonging. In my classroom, my goal was not only to develop academic language skills but also to help students recognize the value of their linguistic heritage. Seeing students gain confidence and pride in their language shaped my long-term commitment to biliteracy and multilingual education.

Over the course of my career, I have served in several leadership roles, including teacher, Dual Language Academy Coordinator, assistant principal, and now principal. Each role has strengthened my understanding of how systems, instruction, and relationships must work together to support student success. My leadership approach has always focused on collaboration, reflective practice, and building school cultures where students, families, and educators feel valued and supported.

A central belief that guides my work is that parents are a child's first teachers. Families possess knowledge, experiences, and cultural strengths that are essential to a student's education. For this reason, I have always been passionate about creating meaningful opportunities for parents to

participate in the educational process. When schools truly partner with families, students benefit academically, socially, and emotionally.

Throughout my career, I have worked intentionally to involve parents in school life through leadership opportunities, school committees, volunteering, and community events. I believe it is important not only to invite parents to school functions but to ensure they have a voice in shaping school initiatives and programs. Listening to families and building trust helps create stronger connections between schools and the communities they serve.

As principal of Ball Junior High School, this philosophy continues to guide our work. We strive to operate as a community school where partnerships with families and local organizations help address the needs of the whole child. By collaborating with community partners, supporting family engagement, and creating welcoming spaces for parents, we work to ensure students have the resources and support necessary to succeed.

I remain deeply committed to advancing biliteracy and multilingual programs because they provide students with opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. Multilingual education strengthens academic achievement, cultural understanding, and global readiness. Through my experience, leadership, and continued advocacy, I hope to contribute to CABE's mission of empowering educators, families, and communities while ensuring that multilingual learners continue to thrive.

With 20 years of experience in public education, I have served as a Spanish teacher for heritage/native speakers, a Dual Language Program Coordinator, assistant principal, and now principal at a DLI school. My work focuses on strengthening multilingual programs and building meaningful partnerships with families. I believe parents are a child's first teachers, and authentic family engagement is essential to student success. As a trilingual educator, I am deeply committed to biliteracy and multilingual education. It would be an honor to be re-elected as Director of Parent Relations with CABE and continue advocating for multilingual learners and their families.

## Testimonio personal

Con 25 años de dedicación a CABE y 36 años como educador bilingüe y Superintendente, estoy listo para liderar nuestra labor legislativa. Como presidente Anterior de CABE y director de Asuntos Financieros, poseo el conocimiento institucional para vincular las necesidades del aula con las decisiones políticas en Sacramento. Mi misión es fortalecer las alianzas con ACSA, CSBA, CALSA, CAAASA, Capitol Advisors, CTA y CSEA para asegurar un financiamiento sólido para la alfabetización bilingüe. Lucharé por mandatos legislativos que protejan a los aprendices de inglés y empoderen nuestras comunidades. Convirtamos nuestra visión en acción a nivel estatal. Respetuosamente, pido su voto.