



Supporting Young Language Learners' Access to Bilingual Education (SYLLABLE) Act

119TH CONGRESS



Background Information

Dual-language immersion (DLI) programs are a proven mechanism for narrowing socioeconomic achievement gaps, enhancing cognitive flexibility, and equipping students with high-demand global workforce skills. By simultaneously developing bilingualism and biliteracy in integrated classrooms, these programs foster elevated academic outcomes for native English speakers and English learners alike.

Despite nationwide demand and extensive enrollment waitlists in affluent areas, a significant equity gap persists as low-income communities face constrained access to these programs. Consequently, the structural academic and developmental advantages of DLI remain disproportionately unavailable to the student populations that stand to benefit from them the most.

The SYLLABLE Act directly addresses this systemic disparity by **providing targeted grant funding to establish and sustain high-quality dual-language immersion programs** within high-poverty communities. The legislation strategically focuses resources to support continuous, integrated dual-language pathways from preschool through at least the fifth grade.



Five Reasons to Support the SYLLABLE Act

1. Builds high-demand bilingualism, biliteracy, and cross-cultural competency to meet a growing corporate workforce demand.
2. Drives growth in language, literacy, and mathematics for native English speakers and English learners alike.
3. Yields the greatest academic improvements for low-income students, effectively reducing achievement gaps.
4. Faces structural inequities that severely restrict expansion in low-income communities and leaves affluent zip codes with disproportionate access and long waitlists.
5. Embeds dual-language pedagogy into higher education coursework to eliminate chronic shortages of qualified multilingual educators.

SYLLABLE Act is endorsed by over 40 organizations, including:

- Joint National Committee for Languages
- National Council for Languages and International Studies
- National Association of Bilingual Education
- National Education Association
- American Federation of Teachers