Dual Language Designation Webinar Q&A

Training

What is the required training that we need to take and where can I find it?

All **dual language lead teachers** and **program leaders** are required to complete DCYF's Dual Language Training. The training must be recorded in your professional record in MERIT before you finalize your quality recognition level as it is an eligibility requirement. There are two training courses:

- Dual Language Learners: Training for Early Learning Professionals
- Dual Language Learning in Early Care and Education

You can go to your MERIT account and search for them under the **"FIND TRAINING"** tab.

An asynchronous version will be available on the DCYF training portal soon. Watch for updates on how to access all dual language training opportunities.

Are the trainings offered at local colleges?

No, DCYF's Dual Language Training is not offered at local colleges. Currently, these trainings are only offered through our contracted partners.

Timeline

What happens if I am close to finalizing but still submitting components? Do I need to request an expedited review to ensure that my cycle doesn't auto-finalize?

If you have something under review, such as a video highlight, you will not be able to finalize your cycle during the review period. Once the review is complete and you have received your feedback, the cycle will automatically finalize.

Remember, you can see your projected points in MERIT. You will need enough points to reach quality level 3+ to earn the dual language designation.

I am mid-way through my current quality recognition cycle. Can I earn this designation for my program this year during my current cycle?

If your site has completed videos and can still submit one in their partner language, you will be able to complete the requirement for the designation.

Dual Language Funding Award

What are the eligibility requirements to receive the dual language funding award?

Programs must be one of the following:

- Licensed, certified, or certified for payment-only providers serving children with child care subsidies (must have received a subsidy payment in the past 12 months); or
- ECEAP programs

Programs must also:

- Earn the Dual Language Designation
- Be at Quality Level 3+ or higher in Early Achievers

If I have received the dual language funding award already, am I eligible to receive it again?

Yes, you may be eligible to receive the dual language funding award each quality recognition cycle that you earn the designation. After July 1, 2026, a program will receive a notification if they have met all eligibility criteria to receive the award.

What are the dual language funding award amounts after July 1?

There is a change from being previously awarded by the classroom to **now being awarded by the site**.

- Up to **$2,100 per site** for Dual Language programs
- Up to **$2,500 per site** for Tribal Language Revitalization programs

How can the dual language funding award be spent?

Funding must support multilingual learning. Examples include:

- Paying bilingual staff
- Training and professional development
- Paid planning time or substitute coverage
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate curriculum
- Classroom materials and learning resources

As a new provider, what else do I need to do to apply for the award?

If you are newly licensed, you need to enroll in Early Achievers. This will give you access to an Early Achievers coach and a community liaison. You will partner with your coach and liaison to receive support during your quality recognition cycle.

As you map out what this will look like for your program, you will start your program handbook, including your policy for multilingual instruction. Consider the activities you do in your partner language. We will update our website and publications with further direction, so stay tuned.

Eligibility Requirements

Does each classroom need to submit at least 1 video in the partner language?

All dual language classrooms that are participating in the program need to submit a video in English and a video in the partner language spoken in that classroom.

If my program submitted video highlights in more than one language in our most recent quality recognition cycle, do we need to reapply?

Since this will go into effect on July 1, 2026, the video you submitted in a previous quality recognition cycle will not apply to this process. Going forward, all dual language classrooms must submit two video highlights: one in English and one in the partner language.

Who is eligible to participate in the Dual Language Designation?

This is for all Early Achievers participants who provide multilingual instruction.

If my program offers more than two languages, do we need to submit a video in each language and is there a limit on how many languages?

There are no limits to the number of languages that a program offers. You only have to submit one video highlight in one of the partner languages.

How much of the partner language needs to be heard throughout the 10 minutes?

The video highlight in the partner language should be in the partner language. However, if the children speak in the other language, it is an opportunity to redirect them to using the partner language during that activity.

Once you apply for the dual language designation, does it cancel the other one that I already have? Is this a new requirement compared to how it was before?

Beginning July 1, 2026, once a program receives the Dual Language Designation, the designation status will be valid for three years. Programs will renew their designation each time they begin a new Early Achievers quality recognition cycle, including completion of the renewal steps and submitting current evidence.

If I haven't submitted six video highlights yet, can I make and submit another video in a different language?

Yes, if you are still in your quality recognition cycle. This 6th video would count as one of the required video highlights to earn the level 3+.

What needs to be included in the video highlight?

Video must show:

- Children and teacher engaging with the partner language. Video must include at least one non-related child.
- Be between 10-15 minutes long and show meaningful interactions between staff and children.

What staffing requirements do I need to meet to earn the dual language designation?

- **One bilingual lead teacher** submits **both** videos (English and partner language) OR
- **Two monolingual teachers** (Lead + Assistant):
    - When using a monolingual staffing model, each teacher submits a video in their teaching language.
    - Assistant teachers may only submit **one** video, based on the language they teach.

When it comes to teaching kids a partner language, do they need to know how to read and write, or will speaking skills be enough?

Yes, it is required that children learn how to read and write in the dual language program. This approach supports **bilingualism**, **biliteracy**, and strong **cultural and family** connections.

If my child care program is very diverse, do I need to be fluent in each language?

The lead teacher does not need to be fluent. If you have a program that has two teaching staff, those two teachers (Lead + Assistant) can work together to upload the video highlights.

If I only have private pay children, can I participate in the dual language designation?

Yes, as the Dual Language Designation is part of Early Achievers, it is available to all Early Achievers participants. Programs that choose to participate must meet the eligibility requirements and complete all required steps to be eligible for the Dual Language Designation.

General

Do we have to identify a single partner language?

Yes. You need to identify one partner language even if you provide instruction in multiple languages besides English.

We have a school-age program, and one of the videos would be with school-agers. Could that video be dual language and school-age and account for both areas?

School-age programs are not eligible for Early Achievers. The videos need to be with children ages birth to 5.

Do school-age children still count for family child care sites?

School-age **only** programs cannot participate in Early Achievers. However, many family child care programs serve mixed age groups. Please contact DCYF so we can provide information specific to your program.

What bilingual curriculum is accepted by Early Achievers?

Currently, we do not have a different curriculum list for multilingual programs. The Curriculum Assessment Tool can be filled out to say if your curriculum aligns with curriculum standards.

Can I claim my program as dual language if the children do not speak that language at home?

We encourage you to submit a language that is representative of the families in your care, though it does not need to be the language spoken at home. For example, if you are teaching in a language other than the one spoken at home, such as Vietnamese, you are still sharing your language and culture regularly in the classroom.

Where will I find the option to participate in the dual language designation in CECI?

You will find the attestation has updated language starting July 1, 2026. This can be found in the Program Profile.

If I have already submitted six video highlights, can I delete a video highlight to submit a new one in our partner language?

If you have completed all six videos for your current cycle, the system will not allow you to delete a video to submit a new one.

Who do I reach out to if I have questions?

Please email questions to QRIS@dcyf.wa.gov.