



Waivers

2026-2027 Application for Bilingual Exception / ESL Waiver

Waiver ID: 90663

Application Information

Category: General

Creator: Jennifer Garcia, District Editor

Status: Draft

Creation Date: 10/6/2026

Approving Superintendent:
Assigned To: Jennifer Garcia

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LEA Information

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Special Instructions

A Local Education Agency (LEA), including school districts, open-enrollment charters, and districts of innovation are required to identify and serve emergent bilingual (EB) students through bilingual education, per Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §89.1205. If the LEA does not have the appropriately certified educators for their required bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program, they will file the applicable bilingual exception or ESL waiver for the teachers and students impacted, per 19 TAC §89.1207.

This is a one-year provisional measure taken to report the current needs of the district and to specify the actions to be taken in order to secure the appropriately certified staff, provide training and support to the teachers under the exception/waiver, and verify the implementation of temporary alternative methods that meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of the emergent bilingual students and align as closely as possible to the required bilingual or ESL program. The district's bilingual/ESL program contact and/or the human resource contact person may complete and submit the exception/waiver application. The application includes a verification that the superintendent has reviewed and approved the application.

- The Alternative Methods Description shall include how the district is going to align the temporary methods as closely as possible to the required bilingual/ESL program to meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of EB students. Describe the activities and how they will aim to meet the expected goal during this year's cyclical process.
- The Action Plan shall include 3-5 measurable targeted activities planned for the school year to recruit, hire, and retain the appropriate certified teachers. A description of the activity and the goal will be included with the expected completion date during this year's cyclical process.
- The Comprehensive Professional Development Plan will include how the district plans to use the 10% of the Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds to prepare teachers under an exception or waiver with high-impact professional learning opportunities during this year's cyclical process.

To submit your Bilingual Exception/ESL Waiver Application you must provide the district Information on the TEAL Dashboard, including the Alternative Methods Description, a Comprehensive Professional Development Plan, and the Action Plan to actively recruit and retain bilingual/ESL teachers to avoid filing for a Bilingual Exception and/or ESL Waiver in subsequent years.

2026-2027 Application for Bilingual Exception/ESL Waiver

1. BILINGUAL PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE METHODS DESCRIPTION.

Describe how the district plans to align the temporary alternative methods as closely as possible to the required bilingual program to meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of EB students. Be sure to describe the activities and how they will aim to meet the expected goal during this year's cyclical process separately by selecting "Add Activity Details" button. This data is mandatory only if you are requesting for BIL exception.

N/A

2. ESL PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE METHODS DESCRIPTION.

Describe how the district plans to align the temporary alternative methods as closely as possible to the required ESL program to meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of EB students. Be sure to describe the activities and how they will aim to meet the expected goal during this year's cyclical process separately by selecting "Add Activity Details" button. This data is mandatory only if you are requesting for ESL waiver.

Teachers who are not currently ESL certified will collaborate with ESL-certified staff through planning, PLCs, and professional development to support the academic and linguistic needs of Emergent Bilingual (EB) students. These teachers will work toward obtaining their ESL certification by preparing for and taking the required exam. The district will continue to emphasize Content-Based Language Instruction (CBLI) strategies and provide training on implementing the newly adopted English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS). EB students will have equitable opportunities to participate in general education, extracurricular activities, and special programs alongside their English-proficient peers. Teachers will integrate the ELPS with TEKS-aligned instruction, using strategies such as structured conversations, sentence stems, visual supports, and vocabulary development to support language acquisition while maintaining grade-level expectations. ESL staff will provide additional student support, and teachers will use TELPAS, STAAR, MAP, and classroom assessment data to monitor progress, identify needs, and adjust instruction.

3. ACTION PLAN WITH TARGETED RECRUITING ACTIVITIES.

Describe the district's action plan for the current school year. The plan should include 3-5 measurable targeted activities the district will complete during the year to recruit, hire, and retain appropriately certified teachers. A description of the activity and goal will be included with the expected completion date during this year's cyclical process. The activities should (1) demonstrate support for teachers seeking certification, including access to TEA's free certification resources, (2) reflect efforts to recruit certified teachers to the district, and (3) strengthen program implementation by preparing teachers under the bilingual exception or ESL waiver to better serve the needs of the district's emergent bilingual students. Provide the activity information separately by selecting "Add Activity Details" button.

During the 2026-2027 school year, the district will continue supporting teachers working toward ESL and bilingual certification by providing access to Region 11 preparation courses and TEA's free certification resources. Teachers serving under an ESL waiver or bilingual exception will be encouraged to complete preparation activities and take the appropriate certification exam by June of 2027. The district will continue recruiting appropriately certified teachers through job fairs, district job postings, and social media, while promoting the \$6,000 bilingual stipend as a recruitment and retention incentive. Bilingual and ESL teachers will participate in ongoing PLCs and professional development focused on biliteracy development, Content-Based Language Instruction (CBLI), and effective instructional strategies for Emergent Bilingual students. Additional training opportunities will be provided to support implementation of the newly adopted English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS), including teachers who were unable to attend the initial training at Eagle EdCon. Throughout the year, the district will continue providing instructional support and opportunities for collaboration to strengthen program implementation and ensure teachers serving under waivers or exceptions are better prepared to meet the academic and linguistic needs of EB students.

4. COMPREHENSIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

Include how the district plans to use the 10% of the Bilingual Education Allotment (BEA) funds to prepare teachers under an exception or waiver with high-impact professional learning opportunities during this year's cyclical process.

The district uses its bilingual allotment toward the salary of a campus Bilingual Interventionist who works with the Bilingual teachers on the Bilingual campus to assist them in providing instruction that increases literacy and language development. The campuses also use the BEA allotment for instructional materials to assist EB students.

Decatur ISD Bilingual Exceptions
& ESL Waivers

For Approval:

2024-2025

Bilingual Exceptions

DISD Total	3
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ESL Waivers

DISD Total	14
DHS	1
MMS	1
Carson	3
Enis	2
Rann	2
Young	5

2025-2026

Bilingual
Exceptions

DISD Total	2
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ESL Waivers

DISD Total	11
DHS	0
MMS	1
Carson	2
Enis	0
Rann	4
Young	4

2026-2027

Bilingual
Exceptions

DISD Total	0
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ESL Waivers

DISD Total	15
DHS	1
MMS	1
Carson	3
Enis	1
Rann	4
Young	5