



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

**TONY THURMOND**  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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March 11, 2022

The Honorable Monique Limón  
1021 O Street, Suite 7330  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Senate Bill 952 (Limón)—Dual-Language Immersion Position: Sponsor**

Dear Senator Limón:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, the California Association for Bilingual Education, and Californians Together are pleased to co-sponsor **Senate Bill 952** to expand the number of schoolwide dual-language immersion programs in California. We would like to thank you for authoring this important measure, which will have a long-range impact on California's students and their ability to contribute to a global economy as well as to our state's rich cultural diversity.

Bilingualism/biliteracy and multiculturalism are tremendous assets to both individuals and our society. Children who are bilingual and biliterate demonstrate improved outcomes in academic and social development at a time when the demand for a bilingual workforce continues to grow in line with the desire for global competitiveness. In 1998, Proposition 227 emphasized English-only instruction and stripped many students of their culture and language along their education journeys. This proposition was not overturned until 2016 with the passage of Proposition 58, known as the California Education for a Global Economy (Ed.G.E.) Initiative, which increased access to multilingual programs in California. SB 952 is in alignment with the state's positive shift to acknowledging biliteracy as an asset.

SB 952 recognizes that dual-language immersion schools generate high interest among parents and communities looking to strengthen global engagement and 21st century skills for their children. We look forward to seeing schools utilize the grants to attract students and families back to schools that have seen dwindling enrollment while promoting strong academic performance among students from all backgrounds.

Through the expansion of schoolwide dual-language immersion programs, we will also see more students become eligible for the State Seal of Biliteracy, a prestigious statewide recognition for high school graduates.

Dual-language immersion programs provide the opportunity for both native English speakers and students who are classified as English learners to be immersed in both English and a language other than English to develop linguistic proficiency and academic achievement in both languages. These programs promote cognitive development, cross-cultural understanding, empathy, and greater future career possibilities to benefit all children and youth.

This legislation is a critical step toward preparing California students to succeed in a global economy with the cognitive, sociocultural, and academic benefits of multilingualism and biliteracy. We appreciate your leadership in authoring this bill and are proud to be sponsors. Should you have any questions about our support for this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle Warshaw, Policy Analyst, at 916-319-0638 or [MWarshaw@cde.ca.gov](mailto:MWarshaw@cde.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Thurmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tony" being more prominent than the last name "Thurmond".

Tony Thurmond  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Hernandez". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Martha Hernandez, Executive Director,  
Californians Together

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan Gustafson-Coreia". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jan Gustafson Coreia, Chief Executive  
Officer, California Association for Bilingual  
Education