

To: Local Education Agencies (LEAs)

From: Nathan Williamson, Director of Title Grants and Support  
Valerie Beard, Asst. Director of English Learners and Special Populations

Date: February 8, 2020

Re: Higher Education Course Funding for High Need Areas of EL, DLI, and High Ability

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is pleased to announce a further substantial investment for LEAs to seek course reimbursement for individuals to become qualified to serve as an English learner Teacher of Record (TOR) or as teachers in the area of high ability (HA) and dual language immersion (DLI). Requests for coursework funding will be prioritized for:

- (1) LEAs who requested participation through IDOE for current English learner (EL) and High Ability (HA) teachers enrolled in coursework, so that the individuals may participate in further courses to gain full licensure. IDOE is willing to pay for multiple courses for these individuals to fully complete the respective programs.
- (2) LEAs with active DLI programs, but few or no licensed DLI teachers. IDOE is willing to pay for multiple courses for these individuals to complete DLI licensure or certificate.<sup>1</sup>
- (3) LEAs with few or no licensed EL or HA teachers or high ratios of identified students to licensed teachers and have not been able to participate in prior opportunities. IDOE anticipates funding one (1) course that can count towards full licensure, with any additional courses to be paid via the LEA, individual, or further opportunities.

An administrator for an LEA that wishes for one or more teachers to receive course reimbursement must complete the [Request to Participate](#) by March 9, 2020. LEAs may select any university which offers Indiana licensure in the respective areas.

On or before March 1, 2020, the administrator must provide the following information for IDOE to review and approve the number of teachers to seek course reimbursement:

- 1) Name, role, current assignment, years of experience, current licensure of each individual. LEAs may submit multiple names in case funding is available, but needs to prioritize the individuals beginning with the first name submitted.
- 2) Description of how the individual will fulfill a role in which the licensure is needed, and the designated school, grade, level in which the individual will serve.
- 3) Justification for the number of individuals submitted. This information is vital when requesting more than 1 individual, such as in cases where an LEA has no current EL licensed teachers, or those who are licensed are placed in positions where they cannot effectively serve (e.g. principal).
- 4) State the selected university with an IDOE-approved program<sup>2</sup> and timeline for which the coursework will be completed. Additional bonus points will be offered if the LEA provides matching funds for the individual to seek full licensure.

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<sup>1</sup> To date, Purdue College of Education is the only Indiana University to offer a Dual Language Bilingual Education Certificate.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.doe.in.gov/licensing/rep-a-approved-educator-preparation-programs>  
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- 5) Attach the agreement the LEA will have the teacher(s) sign prior to participation in coursework. Expectations may be defined locally, but LEAs may use the provided guidance document to inform the content of the agreement:

After reviewing submissions, IDOE will notify the LEAs of the awarded amount that will be subgranted to the universities that the LEA has selected. The funding provided is designed to cover the entire cost of the course, including any textbooks or fees. Individuals will then enroll for their coursework.

Questions may be sent to Nathan Williamson at [nwilliamson@doe.in.gov](mailto:nwilliamson@doe.in.gov) or 317-232-6671 or Valerie Beard at [ybeard@doe.in.gov](mailto:ybeard@doe.in.gov) or 317-232-0558