

To: Local Education Agencies and Grantees of Indiana Dual Language Pilot Program Grant

From: Nicole Leach, Dual Language & English Learner Specialist

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Subject: DL Pilot Program Grant and COVID-19 Related Issues

As Indiana schools and educational events are closed or operating via e-learning due to the COVID-19, this memorandum attempts to provide guidance for LEAs currently receiving funding from the Indiana Dual Language Immersion Pilot Program Grant.

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ #1: Our school is closed but will operate via e-learning. As a current grantee under the Indiana Dual Language Immersion Pilot Program Grant, it is required that an instructional model is followed in which a student spends 50% or more of the day learning in the language other than English. Will this still be a requirement during a time of extended e-learning?

Answer: As continuous time spent in the language other than English is critical for a student to gain proficiency, it is important that e-learning activities are available in the target language whenever possible; however, the IDOE recognizes that this will present difficulties with younger learners and will extend flexibility during this time. Please be sure to reference CAL's Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education. In an atmosphere of e-learning full and exemplary alignment to the principles will be difficult, but it is possible to still strive for this while reaching partial alignment on the rubric.

FAQ #2: What resources are available to assist teachers in providing literacy and activities in the language other than English that can be completed at home for dual language learners?

Answer: Here is a master list of compiled possible resources for teachers to use at this time with categories that include dual language learners and English language learners. If you wish to have access to Indiana's Dual Language Google folder in order to share as well as find activities, please contact Nicole Leach at nleach@doe.in.gov or Samantha Morron at smorron@mccsc.edu.

FAQ #3: Our school planned multiple upcoming professional development opportunities and school visits that will no longer be a possibility. What are the options for this funding?

Answer: Funds that were allocated to professional development opportunities can easily be reallocated to other areas such as personnel, support, or materials, and IDOE will work with grant recipients to streamline this process. In order to amend the DLI Pilot Program Grant, the

program administrator can complete a budget amendment prior to spending the reallocated funds and IDOE will review the request to respond as quickly as possible.

FAQ #4: Our school is closed and is not operating virtually with the intent of using waiver days to not make up the instructional time. Will this affect dual language learners?

Answer: If the school is not providing educational services, there is no expectation that instruction be provided in the target language during the school closure. However, in these instances, it is advisable to share links and resources in the target language to help families support students' continued language development at home. Here is a link to available resources for Spanish and Mandarin.

FAQ #5: Our school has multiple professional development opportunities and school visits scheduled; however, there is uncertainty to which events will be cancelled. Will there be flexibility with the funding timeline?

Answer: Because the Indiana Dual Language Pilot Program Grant is a state-funded program, there will be the ability to have needed flexibility and possible funding extensions as situations arise. In case of needed changes, please contact Nicole Leach at nleach@doe.in.gov.

FAQ #6: How must the LEA provide services to English learners (ELs) during school closure?

Answer: If the school is closed and not operating virtually, no services are required for ELs. However, if the school is operating via e-learning, the LEA must provide services to ELs. Note that the structure and schedule of services may look different from what the school typically offers when meeting in person, but that EL staff must collaborate with certified classroom teachers to ensure that the e-learning content and delivery are accessible for ELs

FAQ #7: If we need further support, whom do we contact?

Answer: Questions about dual language programming and funding may be sent to Nicole Leach at nleach@doe.in.gov