



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

DAVID C. HESPE
Commissioner

May 17, 2016

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Renaissance School Project Lead Persons

FROM: Karen L. Campbell, Director
Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

SUBJECT: Bilingual Program Waiver Request 2016-2017

New Jersey's Bilingual Education Law requires that districts enrolling 20 or more English language learners (ELLs) in a single language group throughout grades kindergarten through 12 implement a full-time bilingual education program. Annually, the New Jersey Department of Education accepts districts' requests to waive this requirement as stipulated in *N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.4(d)*, if the age range, grade span and/or geographic location of the district's ELLs make it impractical for the district to provide a full-time bilingual program.

If your district enrolls 20 or more ELLs in a single language group, and it is not currently providing a full-time bilingual education program, it must request a waiver in order to implement an alternative bilingual instructional program for the 2016-2017 school year. Instructional program alternatives include, but are not limited to, a part-time bilingual program, a bilingual resource program, a bilingual tutorial, a sheltered English instruction program, and a high-intensity ESL program. For a description of these bilingual program alternatives, refer to *N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.2* at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap15.pdf>. Before submitting a waiver request, the Department encourages districts to review student performance data to identify the most effective program to meet the needs of English language learners. This review should include assessing the district's capacity to reallocate resources in support of a full-time bilingual education program.

The Bilingual Waiver State Data Submission application can be found under "Bilingual Waiver" on the Department's Homeroom page at <https://homeroom.state.nj.us/>. The completed waiver request must be submitted no later than **June 30, 2016**. Please note that the application has been updated since the 2015-2016 school year and information will be entered in a different format. For district staff who have completed the bilingual waiver online for the 2015-2016 school year, the login information remains the same. Otherwise, please contact your district web user administrator for login information to this collection. When the review of your district's bilingual waiver is completed, the Department will notify your district of the status by mail.

If you have any questions, you can call the Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education at (609) 292-8777 or e-mail at lep@doe.state.nj.us.

KLC\G:\LORI\Bilingual Waivers 2016-2017\Bilingual Waiver CSA Letter 2016_Final.doc

c: Members, State Board of Education Executive County Business Officials
Commissioner David C. Hespe Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
Senior Staff Garden State Coalition of Schools
Diane Shoener NJ Lee Group
Executive County Superintendents