



HB56 PUBLIC SCHOOLS – DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION – TEACHER CERTIFICATION, PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, AND STUDY

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WAYS AND MEANS

SUPPORT

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) supports **HB56 Public Schools – Dual Language Education – Teacher Certification, Program Implementation, and Study**. This bill establishes a new state certification for dual language teachers and requires the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to adopt regulations for the certifications of and renewal of a certificate for dual language teachers in public schools on or before December 31, 2024. The requirements for the dual language teacher certification must be aligned with the National Dual Language Education Teacher Preparation Standards. In addition, the state certification must not “create unnecessary barriers that limit multilingual candidates from being certified,” including consideration of alternative coursework or assessments that incorporate and give weight to demonstrations of multilingualism and prior teaching experience and credentials.

This bill also requires the Maryland State Department of Education to develop guidelines for the implementation of dual language immersion programs in public schools that are aligned with the *Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education* published by the Center for Applied Linguistics.

AACPS is in the process of implementing its first dual language education program at Tyler Heights Elementary School. This program was developed using the *Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education* published by the Center for Applied Linguistics. As such, AACPS supports guidelines for the implementation of dual language immersion programs in Maryland that align with the Center for Applied Linguistics’ guiding principals for dual language education.

Furthermore, establishing a state certification for dual language teachers will support AACPS in the process of recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining highly qualified dual language teachers; and will help establish clear pathways for multilingual support staff to transition to dual language teachers.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** committee report on HB56.