

## Bilingual Education Certification Pathways

For a teacher to obtain a bilingual education certification, the teacher must first obtain a content/grade level Texas teaching certificate. Bilingual education certification requirements apply to all districts, open-enrollment charters, and districts of innovation.

An **Alternative certification program** is a type of educator preparation program (EPP) that is a post-baccalaureate option for teachers who did not complete a traditional undergraduate educator preparation program. Components of a typical alternative certification program for bilingual Spanish certification consist of the following:

- Requirements
  - 270 course clock-hours and
  - 30 hours of observation (up to 15 hours can be via video)
- Exams required to obtain **Intern certification**
  - Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT),
  - Bilingual Supplemental, and
  - Core Subjects Early Childhood – 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Requirements for obtaining **Probationary** or **Standard certification**
  - Complete EPP obligations and receive EPP recommendation
  - Receive school district's recommendation
  - Pass Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) exam or edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessment)

*\*If a teacher has an Intern, Probationary, or Standard bilingual education certificate, he or she is appropriately certified for the bilingual education program. Therefore, a bilingual education exception is not needed for this teacher/classroom.*

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When a teacher is in the process of obtaining an appropriate bilingual education certification, the district may obtain an Emergency Permit to provide the temporary certification.

**Emergency Permits** consist of the following:

- Rules
  - District's online request and district's \$57 payment due at the time of submission
  - District's online request must be completed within 45 instructional days
  - Teacher must meet
    - minimum requirements for the grade level and type of assignment and
    - hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree
  - Valid for one school year and cannot be renewed
  - Submission of permits begin July 1<sup>st</sup> for the next school year
- Requirements
  - Certified educators at the grade level of assignment
    - Six semester hours in bilingual education for targeted language or language proficiency test passed (such as the BTLPT or ACTFL-American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages)
    - Registered for the next available test(s)
  - Individuals not certified and enrolled in an approved teacher preparation program
    - A certification plan is required from the candidate's program
    - Cannot be combined with an intern or probationary certificate, if area is available through the candidate's program

*\*If a teacher has an Emergency Permit for bilingual education, he or she is appropriately certified for the bilingual education program. Therefore, a bilingual education exception is not needed for this teacher/classroom.*

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