

# Early Achievers Dual Language Designation

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a Dual Language Designation?

Dual language learning is an approach where children learn literacy, content, and culture in two languages, typically English and a partner language spoken in the community. The Early Achievers Dual Language Designation recognizes programs supporting multilingual children and families in dual language learning environments to meet their specific strengths and needs.

### Who can request a Dual Language Designation?

Programs participating in Early Achievers can request a Dual Language Designation.

### What should I know before requesting the Dual Language Designation?

In the first step, programs will commit to meeting the [Dual Language Standards and Best Practices](#).

Providers will attest to the dual language program commitments prior to being approved:

- At least one learning environment provides 50-90% of the day with children in the non-English partner language; and
- At least one enrolled child that speaks the non-English partner language at home; and
- There is at least one bilingual staff providing care, instruction, and communication in the partner language; OR
- They are a tribal language revitalization programs with one teacher providing care in the tribal language.

### How do I request a Dual Language Designation?

Programs can request a Dual Language Designation in CECEI, Washington's [Coach and Educator Community Interface](#) (formerly known as Coaching Companion).

### What is a Dual Language Designation Award?

The [Fair Start for Kids Act](#) directs DCYF to establish a Dual Language Designation and provides funding for eligible providers to enhance linguistic support in learning environments.

### Who is eligible for the Dual Language Designation Award?

As funding is available, the following may be eligible for an award:

- Licensed or certified providers who accept state child care subsidy. This means the program has claimed a payment in the last 12 months.
- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Early ECEAP contractors.



- Prioritization will be based on the [Child Care Stabilization Zip Code Factors](#).

### How much is the Dual Language Designation Award?

As funding is available, awards are per learning environment or classroom. A program with multiple learning environments may receive an award for each of their dual language learning environments, up to ten learning environments per funding year.

- Dual language programs may receive \$2,700 per learning environment.
- Tribal language revitalization programs may receive \$4,100 per learning environment.  
*DCYF acknowledges tribal language revitalization programs require foundational funding to revitalize languages.*

### What can the Dual Language Designation Award be used for?

The award can be used for:

- Wages for staff providing bilingual instruction
- Professional development and planning time
- Curricula and educational materials related to dual language
- Other related expenses to enhance dual language learning

### What does documentation and spending look like?

Award recipients must keep receipts from purchases made with the Dual Language Designation award funds for seven (7) years. DCYF may ask for receipts for purchases made with money from dual language award. If receipts and documentation cannot be provided when asked, facilities will be required to repay part or all of the award to the State of Washington. Dual Language Awards cannot be used to reimburse purchases made prior to receiving the award.

### If the funding runs out, can I still request the Dual Language Designation?

Yes. Early Achievers participants are eligible to request designation, and funding will go to prioritized learning environments while funding permits. Programs will still be designated even if the funding runs out.

Questions? Contact DCYF at [merit@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:merit@dcyf.wa.gov)