



# Bilingual Policy Key Updates



**March 23, 2016**



# New Bilingual Policy: Purpose Statement

- The Board acknowledges that cultural identity is inseparable from language and recognizes bilingualism as a desirable goal and a reflection of cultural heritage. This Policy further strengthens the Board's commitment to recognize students' home languages and cultures as assets to build upon and to support academic success while they acquire English in preparation for success in college, career, and life.
- The Board is committed to bilingual education as an effective vehicle for providing English Learners (ELs) with a full measure of access to an equitable educational opportunity as required by federal and state law.
- This policy specifies Dual Language Education as a program model option for delivering bilingual education services, and the Board recognizes Dual Language Education as an effective model for building bilingualism and biliteracy in students.

# Bilingual Education Policy

We propose that the Chicago Board of Education amend the Bilingual Education Policy in order to ensure that:

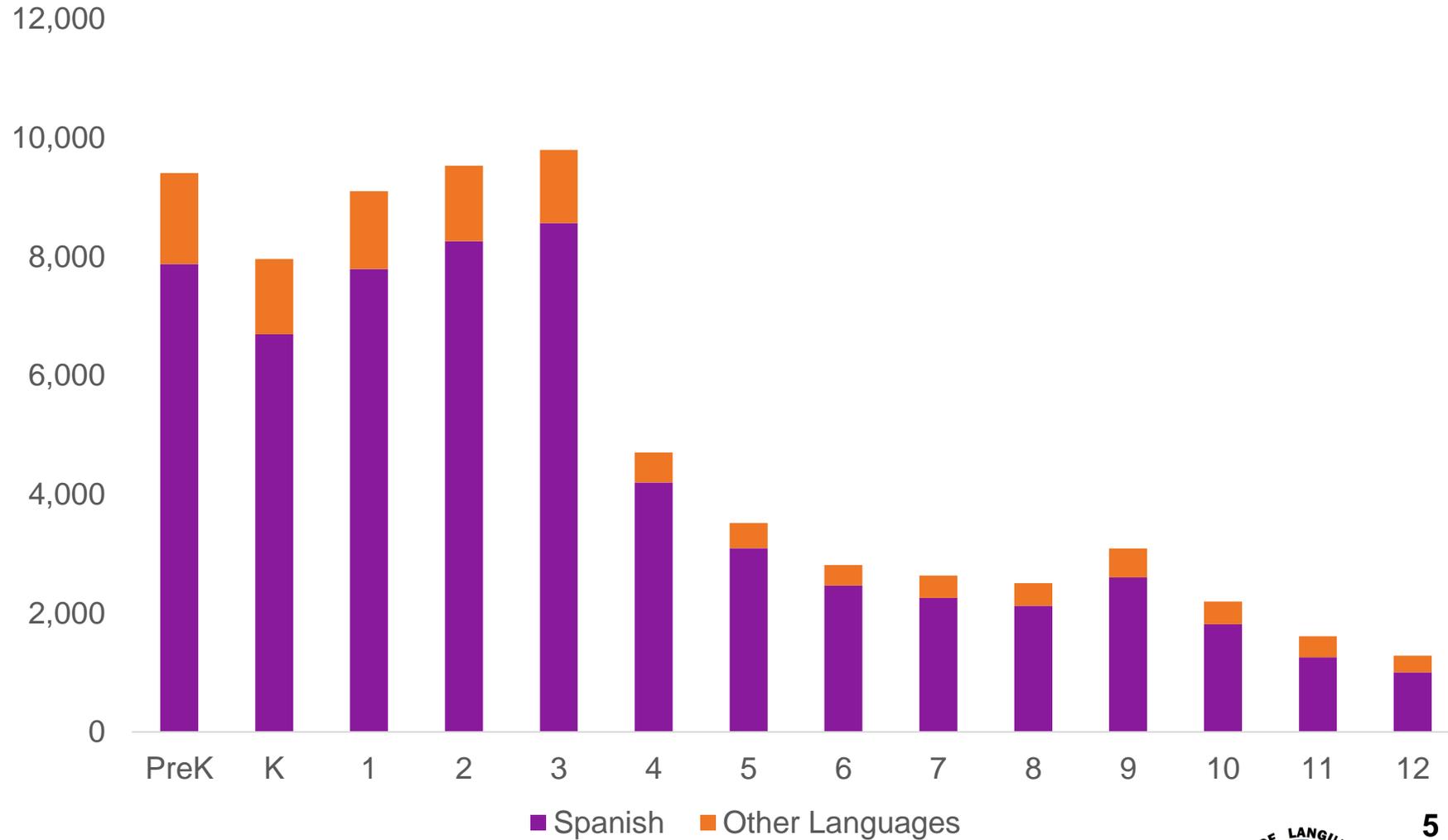
- CPS policy reflects [current federal and state rules and regulations](#) related to bilingual education service requirements;
- Schools have a [clear understanding of the regulations for bilingual education services](#) that have already been required to be implemented by districts in Illinois;
- [Clarifications about instructional requirements](#) necessary to ensure success of English Learners are provided; and
- References to [outdated terminology and initiatives](#) that are no longer used in the district are removed.



# English Learners (ELs) in CPS: Introduction

- **Over 70,000 students**
  - More than a third of all ELs in Illinois are served in CPS schools
- **Students speak over 100 languages**
- **Top 5 languages spoken by %:**
  - Spanish: 85%
  - Arabic: 2%
  - Polish: Less than 2%
  - Cantonese: Less than 2%
  - Urdu: Less than 2%
  - Other: 7%
- **21% of ELs have IEPs and are identified as Diverse Learners**

# EL Enrollment by Grade: Introduction



# Bilingual Education Policy: History

Policy last adopted in October 2002, and since:

- Illinois joined the WIDA Consortium in 2003
  - Development of English Language Proficiency Standards and Assessments to meet federal requirements
- Numerous updates to 23 IL Administrative Code 228: Transitional Bilingual Education
  - Program Models, Standards, Early Childhood
- ISBE updates to teacher licensure
- U.S. Departments of Education and Justice outline obligations to English Learners under civil rights law
- Department of Education releases English Learner Tool Kit for states and school districts
- ESSA signed into law in December 2015



# Enhancements to Current Policy

- Terminology: Removing references to outdated initiatives, such as “Framework for Success,” and references to English Learners as “Limited English Proficient Students”
- Transparency: Policy organized to assist stakeholders throughout various aspects of intake, placement, and provision of services
- Applicability: Preschool through 12 grade
- Procedures: Specific sections on the Home Language Survey, EL screening and Placement and procedures related to transfer students and parental request to refuse services or re-enroll in services
- Monitoring: Clarification about monitoring progress of students whose parents refused services and monitoring students’ progress after they become English Language Proficient
- Services: Students are entitled to services until they reach English Language Proficiency, as defined by ISBE

# Enhancements to Current Policy

- Program Models: Three program models – Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI), Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE), and Dual Language Education (DLE), aligned to guidance from ISBE
- Diverse Learner Evaluations & Related Services: Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for English Learners who are also Diverse Learners
- Grading: Clarifications about grading protocols for ELs
- Teacher Certification: Updated language to reflect current teacher licensure and endorsements
- Resources: Bilingual Education Handbook to accompany the bilingual policy will be available to all schools.

