88th Texas Legislative Session Debrief & Next Steps

IDRA - TABE Bilingual Directors Back to School Institute Chloe Latham Sikes, Ph.D. September 15, 2023





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SB 560 Emergent Bilingual Strategic Plan





2023 Legislative Policy Priorities for Bilingual Education

- **Increase** certified bilingual education teachers through preparation programs, retention support and teacher pay;
- **Raise** bilingual education weight and expenditures limits;
- Adopt State Seal of Biliteracy;
- Ensure students who speak languages other than English, and their families, have access to quality public education without barriers.



Little Progress from Plan this Spring



No legislative recommendations from TEA Strategic Plan for Emergent Bilingual Students advanced **More money** for more aspiring bilingual/ESL/Spanish teachers



Key Proposals



- → Educator Supports in Bilingual/ESL Programs, Training & Technical Assistance
- → Increase bilingual graduates with Seal of Biliteracy
- Explore a Spanish STAAR in MS and HS
- → Reduce barriers to teacher certification





Upcoming Opportunities for Action

- ★ **Call** legislators to voice support for bilingual educators!
- ★ Advocate at TEA, State Board of Education (SBOE), and State Board for

Educator Certification (SBEC) for quality bilingual education standards

in materials, trainings and certification





Script to Call a Legislative/Agency Office

Hello/buenas tardes!

My name is [name], I am a [TABE member, bilingual educator, etc.] calling to urge [Legislator] to support bilingual educators and programs this legislative session.

As a bilingual educator/administrator, I would be most supported by [additional training, program funding, technical assistance, bilingual instructional materials, etc.]

Thank you for your time!

Feel free to share more about yourself, your experience, and anything else!

Find your state legislator and other elected officials here: <u>https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home</u>





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