

**Resolution of The Board of Education  
Orange County, California**

Resolution Supporting Access to Bilingual Education and/or Dual Immersion  
February 2, 2026

**WHEREAS**, the ability to communicate effectively in multiple languages promotes academic success, critical thinking, and cultural understanding and acceptance, preparing students to thrive in a globally interconnected society; and

**WHEREAS**, bilingual education and/or dual immersion fosters cognitive development, literacy, and problem-solving skills, empowering English Learners (EL) and Dual Language Learners to achieve at levels equal to or exceeding those of their native-English-speaking peers; and

**WHEREAS**, California's linguistic landscape includes more than 1.5 million EL students- representing nearly twenty percent (20%) of the state's public school population- yet opportunities for bilingual education and/or dual immersion in core and elective subjects remain limited due to a shortage of certified bilingual instructors, lack of state funding, and insufficient access to language programs; and

**WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that students enrolled in dual-language immersion programs show measurable gains in reading comprehension, literacy, mathematics, and cognitive flexibility; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted progress in bilingual program development, diminishing teacher pipelines, and widening opportunity gaps for students from immigrant backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, access to bilingual instruction aligns with Orange County Board of Education's mission to promote strong academic performance, prepare students for college and career readiness, and ensure effective teaching and learning across all schools; and

**WHEREAS**, expanding bilingual education and/or dual immersion directly supports California's broader commitment to improving education outcomes and strengthening instructional quality in schools;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Orange County Board of Education hereby:

1. Recognizes and affirms the importance of bilingual education and/or dual immersion in core and elective subjects as an essential component of student academic success;
2. Encourages collaboration among schools, community organizations, and state agencies to expand dual-language immersion opportunities across Orange County public schools;
3. Supports investment in bilingual instructor certification programs and professional development to ensure qualified educators are available to serve student populations;

4. Urges schools and districts to allocate resources toward curriculum development, instructional materials, and expanded access to bilingual education and/or dual immersion and/or dual immersion for all students, particularly those in Title I schools;
5. Commits to ongoing review of bilingual education and/or dual immersion outcomes to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of programs that celebrate academic excellence.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of February 2026, at a regular meeting of the Board of Education by a vote of 5-0.



Jorge Valdes, Esq.  
1st District



Mari Barke  
2nd District



Ken L. Williams, Jr., D.O.  
3rd District



Tim Shaw  
4th District



Lisa Sparks, Ph.D.  
5th District

