

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Principals and Assistant Principals
Dual Language Immersion Program Contacts
World Language Coordinators

FROM: Kristi D. Austin, PhD
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: May 13, 2026

RE: Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsement Pathways, Survey and Courses

On September 2, 2025, the State Board of Education approved three Endorsement Pathways for DLI Teachers, DLI Coaches, and DLI Instructional Leaders.

The coursework and training associated with these certification endorsements are intended to enhance the skills and build capacity of educators, coaches, and instructional leaders who participate in DLI programs.

Participation in endorsement coursework is *optional* and open to any educator or instructional leader who is interested.

The requirements to add each Dual Language Immersion endorsement are as follows:

- **Dual Language Immersion Teacher Endorsement**
6 semester hours (2 courses)
- **Dual Language Immersion Coach Endorsement**
9 semester hours (3 courses)
- **Dual Language Immersion Instructional Leader Endorsement**
12 semester hours (4 courses)

For additional information on requirements and course descriptions visit:

[Endorsements for Dual Language Immersion](#).

To best serve the field, the Office of Assessment and Standards is conducting a [Statewide Survey](#) to gather interest from educators and instructional leaders who may wish to

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pursue coursework leading to one or more DLI endorsements through the **VirtualSC Professional Development** branch. The survey responses will support SCDE in:

- Planning endorsement coursework offerings; and
- Establishing appropriate timelines.

Completion of the survey does not commit participants to enrolling in any course. The survey is intended solely to help the South Carolina Department of Education understand statewide interest, needs, and readiness. Districts and schools are encouraged to share the survey with teachers, instructional coaches, principals, assistant principals, and other staff supporting or interested in Dual Language Immersion programs.

VirtualSC PD will open registration for its first course, *Foundations of Dual Language Immersion*, required for all three pathways, on **August 10, 2026**. For more information on course enrollment, please visit: <https://virtualscpd.com/>.

For questions about course enrollment, please contact Rebecca Velasquez (RVelasquez@ed.sc.gov), Virtual SC Education Associate.

For any additional questions, please contact Dr. Rocio Zalba (rzalba@ed.sc.gov), Education Associate for World Languages.