



June 29, 2025

Dr. Rocio Zalba
World Languages
South Carolina Department of Education

Dr. Zalba,

I am writing to advocate for the implementation of a dual language immersion educator endorsement program in South Carolina. Just as educators currently receive endorsements for gifted and talented programs of study, it is essential for teachers, coaches, and administrators to obtain endorsement for dual language immersion. This initiative would not only empower educators but also significantly benefit our students.

The advantages of early language acquisition through dual immersion are profound. Young children possess an innate ability to absorb languages, and beginning their linguistic journey early can lead to native-like proficiency. Additionally, research has demonstrated that bilingual education enhances cognitive skills, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

Furthermore, students enrolled in dual language programs consistently show academic success. The social skills developed during collaborative, bilingual interactions also enhance teamwork abilities, preparing students for future engagements in a globalized world. It is vital that we support our educators with the appropriate training and resources to maximize these benefits.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the implementation of dual language immersion endorsement for all levels of educators in South Carolina. By investing in our educators, we invest in our students, and we are cultivating a community that embraces language diversity and prepares our children for a successful future.

Thank you and please let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Karen McKenzie
Director of Teaching and Learning
Beaufort County School District



East Link Academy Charter School

78 Global Drive, Suite 200, Greenville, SC 29607
Phone (864)-775-1733 www.eastlinkacademy.org

Enriching Academics. Linking Cultures. Achieving Proficiency.

Thursday, June 26, 2025

To: Rocio Zalba, SCDE World Languages
RE: Support of DLI Teacher Endorsement

On behalf of the teachers at East Link Academy, a Chinese language immersion charter school with Limestone Charter Association, it is with great pleasure that I write this letter to express our strong support for the development and implementation of the **Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsement Program** with distinct pathways for **teachers, coaches, and instructional leaders**.

As the demand for high-quality dual language immersion programs continues to grow across our state and nation, there is an urgent need for a well-prepared workforce that can lead, support, and sustain DLI programs with both linguistic and academic excellence. We believe that a comprehensive endorsement program that recognizes the unique roles of classroom educators, instructional coaches, and school leaders is essential for long-term program success and equity.

We fully support the establishment of the following endorsement pathways:

- **DLI Endorsement for Teachers:** This pathway equips educators with the foundational knowledge and instructional strategies needed to support biliteracy, academic achievement in two languages, and cross-cultural competencies in DLI classrooms.
- **DLI Endorsement for Coaches:** Coaches play a critical role in supporting teachers' ongoing growth. This pathway will prepare instructional coaches to provide targeted, research-based guidance specific to the unique demands of DLI settings, including bilingual pedagogy, assessment, and differentiation.
- **DLI Endorsement for Instructional Leaders:** School and district leaders must understand the core principles of dual language education to make informed decisions about staffing, curriculum, assessment, and family engagement. This pathway ensures administrators can lead DLI programs with vision, alignment, and accountability.

These endorsement pathways align with our mission to promote educational equity, bilingualism, and culturally sustaining practices. They also provide clear professional advancement opportunities for educators dedicated to multilingual education.

We commend the efforts to formalize and professionalize these roles and stand ready to support the implementation of the DLI Endorsement Program in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us for partnership, input, or further collaboration.

Sincerely,

Dana Hutto
Head of School
East Link Academy
dhutto@eastlinkacademy.org

June 29, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my full support for the South Carolina Department of Education's proposed Optional Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsements for educators, coaches, and instructional leaders. As a school leader committed to expanding high-quality educational opportunities, I believe these endorsements represent a critical step forward in strengthening immersion programs across our state.

Dual language immersion requires a unique and specialized set of skills to be successful. The proposed endorsement pathways—each tailored to the roles of teachers, coaches, and instructional leaders—recognize this need and offer a thoughtful, structured approach to building expertise. The inclusion of coursework such as *Foundations of DLI*, *Instructional Leadership and Coaching*, and *Systems Alignment & Integration* demonstrates a commitment to both the instructional and systemic components of effective immersion programming.

In my experience, educators who receive targeted professional development are better equipped to meet the diverse academic and linguistic needs of their students. These endorsements would not only elevate the quality of instruction in existing programs but would also provide a clear framework for supporting and expanding dual language initiatives throughout South Carolina. By investing in the professional growth of our staff, we ultimately ensure stronger outcomes for our students—academic, linguistic, and cultural.

I appreciate the SCDE's leadership in developing this proposal and strongly encourage the State Board of Education to approve the endorsements. I am confident they will have a meaningful and lasting impact on the future of bilingual education in our state.

Sincerely,

Jenalee Shepard
Language Immersion Coach
Florence One School

July 1, 2025

Subject: Letter of Strong Support for Proposed Optional Dual Language Immersion Endorsements

Dear Superintendent Ellen Weaver,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support, on behalf of Gilbert Elementary School and our dedicated staff, for the proposed Optional Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsements that the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is preparing to present to the State Board of Education in September.

At Gilbert Elementary School, our Dual Language Spanish Immersion program is a cornerstone of our commitment to providing a rich and globally-minded education. We deeply understand the unique pedagogical demands and the specialized expertise required to deliver high-quality immersion instruction effectively.

The proposed endorsement pathways—for Teachers, Coaches, and Instructional Leaders—directly address this critical need. The tentative course offerings for each pathway, including:

- **DLI Endorsement for Teachers:** *Foundations of DLI, Methods: Key Practices*
- **DLI Endorsement for Coaches:** *Foundations of DLI, Principles of DLI Mentors & Evaluation, Instructional Leadership and Coaching in DLI Instruction*
- **DLI Endorsement for Instructional Leaders:** *Foundations of DLI, Program Evaluation & Improvement, Systems Alignment & Integration of DLI, Developing & Sustaining an Effective DLI Program*

—are precisely what our educators and leaders require to further enhance their skills and ensure the fidelity and excellence of our DLI programs. These endorsements will not only validate the specialized knowledge our DLI professionals possess but will also provide a clear, standardized pathway for professional growth within this vital educational field.

Implementing these optional endorsements will significantly strengthen the capacity of schools across South Carolina to develop, sustain, and improve their DLI programs. This initiative represents a crucial investment in our educators and, by extension, in the linguistic and academic success of our students, preparing them to be truly world-class graduates.

Thank you for your leadership in championing this important proposal. We eagerly anticipate its approval and the profound positive impact it will have on Dual Language Immersion education throughout our state.

For Children,

Stephen Deyo

Principal

Gilbert Elementary School

Gilbert, South Carolina 29054

Dear SC School Board of Education,

My name is Dr. Jason Bagley-Cooler. I currently serve as the K-12 World Languages coordinator for Greenville County Schools, including our K-8 DLI programs.

I have recently been made aware of a proposal to create DLI endorsement pathways for SC teachers, coaches, and instructional leaders, and want to express my whole-hearted support for these much needed endorsements.

Currently, teachers hired to teach in DLI programs only have to be certified in Elementary or Early Childhood Education, and have a passing score on an exam in the World Language they will be teaching. This does not adequately prepare teachers for the specialized pedagogy that research shows is necessary to teach in a DLI setting. Schools or districts must somehow provide training in DLI pedagogy to these teachers, and it may be different by school or district. Often these teachers feel overwhelmed, as they have to create and translate their own materials, which adds to the already large plate of requirements that they must face.

Often, school- based coaches, and even district leaders do not fully understand how DLI "works", and teachers get training or feedback that is not specific to their situation. These coaches and leaders would benefit from learning what DLI is, what it looks like in the classroom, how it works in tandem with the partner teacher/class, and how to determine if their program is successful.

The proposal for these three pathways will fill a void that currently exists in teacher preparation, training, and understanding of the benefits of DLI, and how it works in the classroom. I personally look forward to participating in this if it is approved. The proposal will ensure that there is a standard preparation for all DLI teachers and program stakeholders, will create a network of cohorts that can develop into professional learning communities, and will help SC develop a world class DLI program. I'd love to see more programs develop from this program standardization!

Thank you for considering this proposal. SC has a real need for this, and your approval will meet the needs of teachers, coaches, district leaders, and most importantly, our students!

Thank you,



Dr. Jason Bagley-Cooler

LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO



June 30, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the creation of an optional endorsement for immersion education that can be added to the South Carolina teaching certificate. As language immersion programs continue to grow across the state and the nation, it is imperative that our educational practices evolve to ensure that students are being taught by highly qualified and appropriately trained educators.

This immersion endorsement would provide a valuable credential for teachers who have completed specialized training in immersion pedagogy, language acquisition, and culturally responsive instruction. Additionally, this endorsement would not only recognize the unique skills required to teach in a language immersion setting but would also promote professional excellence and accountability within immersion programs.

Adding this optional immersion endorsement would be a step forward in strengthening our educational program to better prepare students to thrive in a multilingual world. I appreciate your consideration and continued commitment to educational excellence in the state of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise A. Quickel".

Denise Quickel
Director of Bilingual Services and ML Education
Lexington District Two



June 26, 2025

Dear Members of the State Board of Education,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the comprehensive Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsement proposal currently being developed for our state. This proposal represents a critical step forward for dual language immersion education across our state.

I am particularly impressed with the thoughtful inclusion of three distinct endorsement pathways for teachers, coaches and instructional leaders. These proposed endorsements are designed to go beyond typical professional development offerings. They are crafted to provide the essential foundation and practical guidance required for educators to effectively teach and lead robust DLI programs.

From my experience, the vast majority of teachers and instructional leaders enter dual language immersion (DLI) settings with minimal, if any, specific training in immersion pedagogy or program management. Formal training in the educational theories, practices, and research-supported methodologies relevant to immersion education is rarely received. This endorsement program will directly address this critical gap by bringing high-quality, specialized education directly to the educators on the front lines of DLI.

By establishing these endorsement pathways, our state will ensure that DLI programs are not only implemented with fidelity but are also led and taught by professionals equipped with the deep understanding and specific skills necessary for student success in a dual language setting. This initiative will elevate the quality of DLI education, foster stronger programs, and ultimately benefit countless students across our state.

I urge the State Board of Education to recognize the immense value and long-term positive impact of this proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration of this crucial initiative.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bley

Coordinator of World Language and Dual Language Immersion

June 23, 2025

Dr. Rocío Zalba
World Languages
South Carolina Department of Education
1429 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Subject: Letter of Support for Optional Dual Language Immersion Endorsements

Dear Dr. Zalba,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic and unequivocal support for the South Carolina Department of Education's proposal to establish Optional Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsements. As the principal of Meadow Glen Elementary School, a thriving Mandarin Immersion school in Lexington County School District One, I have firsthand knowledge of the unique complexities and profound benefits of DLI education. This initiative directly addresses a critical need for specialized professional development that is essential for the quality and sustainability of our programs.

The proposed endorsement pathways for teachers, coaches, and instructional leaders are thoughtfully designed and align perfectly with the challenges we navigate daily. For our teachers, this endorsement will provide a structured, research-based pathway for professional growth, ensuring our educators are equipped not just with linguistic fluency but with mastery of pedagogical strategies unique to the immersion environment. This will directly translate to higher-quality instruction and improved academic outcomes for our students in both Mandarin and English.

Furthermore, the endorsements for coaches and instructional leaders are particularly vital for ensuring the long-term sustainability and academic rigor of programs like ours. Leading a DLI school requires a distinct skill set focused on strategic program evaluation, systems alignment, and effective instructional coaching for bilingual educators. These endorsements will empower leaders to make data-informed decisions, foster authentic biliteracy, and build a robust pipeline of highly qualified DLI leadership within our state.

By formally recognizing the specialized expertise required for DLI, South Carolina will not only enhance the quality of its existing programs but also become more attractive for recruiting and retaining top-tier immersion educators. This initiative is a crucial investment in the future of multilingual education in our state, promising to serve our diverse student population better and prepare them for a global society.

Thank you and the SCDE for your leadership and foresight in developing this essential proposal. Meadow Glen Elementary School stands firmly in support of its approval by the State Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Brice LS Cockfield, Ed.D.
Principal
Meadow Glen Elementary School
Lexington County School District One
510 Ginny Lane, Lexington, SC 29072
803-821-0400/bcockfield@lexington1.net



Pleasant Hill Elementary School
664 Rawl Road
Lexington, SC 29072
(803) 821-2800

"Preparing and Honoring Every Student"

Margaret B. Mitchum
Principal

Dr. Kyle Meetze
Assistant Principal

Kelly Middleton
Assistant Principal

Laura Wiseman
Executive Secretary

July 7, 2025

State Board of Education
849 Learning Lane
West Columbia, SC 29172

Dear Members of the State Board of Education:

I am Margaret Mitchum, principal of Pleasant Hill Elementary School. Our school opened twenty years ago in August 2006. We began the Dual Language Learning Program in Lexington County School District One and in Pleasant Hill Elementary School at that same time. We grew the program as we started with kindergarten and added a grade each year.

I have enjoyed watching the students in our Dual Language Immersion program progress from kindergarten through fifth grade, then through middle school, high school and beyond. I hear amazing stories from students who are now in their twenties. They share about how they have been afforded so many opportunities because they can speak fluently in English and Spanish.

I am grateful for the current and past leaders in Lexington County School District One for providing professional learning for our Dual Language Immersion teachers. However, I have always hoped that one day the state of South Carolina would provide Dual Language Immersion endorsements for teachers and instructional leaders. Even though our district did much research and study before implementing our Dual Immersion Learning program, most teachers have not had formal courses that would be invaluable in supporting them as they seek to be the best educators they can be for our students. I cannot begin to tell you how excited I would be if the DLI endorsements could in fact become reality.

We know the benefits of Dual Language Immersion, and we want it to continue to grow and become even better in the years ahead. In my opinion, the best way to do that is to provide DLI endorsements. Teachers and instructional leaders would be able to deepen their knowledge, increase their skills and improve their practices – all for the students of our great state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret B. Mitchum



POLO ROAD ELEMENTARY

1250 Polo Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

803.419.2226 phone

803.462.2173 fax

Mr. Terence Isaac- Principal

Dr. Zalba,

I am writing this letter to express my full and enthusiastic support for the continued growth and development of Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs in our state. As both an educator and an administrator, I have seen firsthand the incredible impact DLI has on student learning and engagement.

I had the privilege of serving as a classroom teacher when the DLI program was first launched at Polo Road Elementary. Today, I continue to champion the program in my role as principal of the same school. Over the years, I have witnessed how instrumental this initiative has been in advancing the academic and social-emotional success of our multilingual learners, as well as enriching the educational experience of our English-speaking students. The program not only fosters bilingualism and biliteracy but also cultivates cultural competence and global awareness in all students, increasing skills that are increasingly essential in today's world.

Moreover, I strongly advocate for the establishment of a DLI endorsement for teachers, instructional coaches, and school leaders. Such an endorsement would provide educators with the specialized training and recognition they deserve, ensuring a consistent standard of excellence in DLI instruction and leadership across the state of South Carolina. This would also support retention and professional growth in this high-impact area.

I wholeheartedly support this proposal and respectfully urge the South Carolina Department of Education to approve it for the upcoming school year. Our students, families, and educators deserve the opportunity to benefit from this transformative educational model.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to innovative and inclusive educational practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terence Isaac".

Terence Isaac
Principal, Polo Road Elementary



1250 Polo Road
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 683-4522
www.richland2.org/pre

June 16, 2025

Dear Dr. Zalba

I am writing in strong support of the South Carolina Department of Education's proposal to create Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsements for teachers, coaches, and instructional leaders. As a dual language immersion specialist and advocate for multilingualism and equitable education, I believe these endorsements represent a critical step forward in strengthening and sustaining high-quality immersion programs across our state.

As a Dual Language Immersion specialist, I have spent more than 15 years seeking certification and professional development opportunities outside of South Carolina. This has included paying out-of-state tuition to universities and programs in order to access the specialized training necessary to implement, support, and lead effective immersion instruction. The lack of in-state options has long been a barrier for educators committed to growing their practice within this field.

The proposed endorsements—tailored to teachers, coaches, and instructional leaders—acknowledge the specialized knowledge and practices required to implement and sustain DLI programs. Courses such as Foundations of DLI, Instructional Leadership, and Systems Alignment reflect the complexity of immersion education and the need for intentional professional pathways.

These endorsements will not only support the growth and retention of skilled educators, but they will also elevate the standard of bilingual education in South Carolina. By investing in this initiative, the SCDE is affirming the importance of multilingualism, socio-cultural competence, and equity in education.

I commend this initiative and urge the State Board of Education to approve the proposal when it is presented in September.

Sincerely,

Liz Lawrence-Báez
ebaez@richland2.org
Dual Language Immersion Magnet Lead



Red Bank Elementary

Lead-Learn-Love... Grow & Excel
246 Community Drive
Lexington, South Carolina 29073

Janet Ricard - Principal
Jimmy Kimpton - Assistant Principal
Tomeka Love - Assistant Principal
Phone 803-821-4600 • Fax 803-821-4603

June 26, 2025

Dear Members of the State Board of Education,

As a principal of a partial immersion school, I am writing to enthusiastically support the comprehensive Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsement proposal your team is developing. This proposal is an essential stride forward for dual language immersion education in our state.

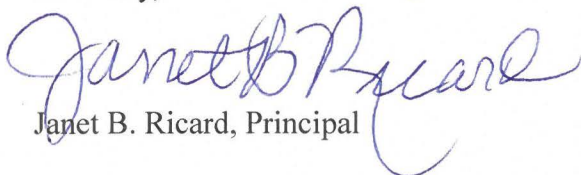
What truly impresses me is the careful thought put into including three endorsement pathways for teachers, coaches, and other instructional leaders. These are not just typical professional development offerings; they're designed to provide the crucial foundation and practical guidance educators need to effectively teach and lead strong DLI programs.

From my firsthand experience, most teachers and instructional leaders stepping into dual language immersion (DLI) environments have very little, if any, specific training in immersion pedagogy or program management. Formal training in the educational theories, practices, and research-backed methodologies vital to immersion education is rare. The proposed endorsement program will directly tackle this critical gap by bringing high-quality, specialized education right to the educators of DLI educators.

By creating these endorsement pathways, the state of South Carolina will ensure that DLI programs are implemented faithfully and are also led and taught by professionals with a high level of understanding and skills necessary for students in a dual language setting. This initiative will lift the quality of DLI education, build stronger programs, and directly benefit so many students across our state.

I strongly urge the State Board of Education to recognize the immense value and long-term positive impact of this proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration of this crucial initiative.

Sincerely,


Janet B. Ricard, Principal



Paul Spence
Coordinator of International Programs
Richland County School District One
1616 Richland Street Columbia, SC 29204
paul.spence@richlandone.org
803-212-1475
June 17, 2025

Dr. Rocío Zalba
South Carolina Department of Education

Dear Dr. Zalba,

I am writing to express my strong support for the South Carolina Department of Education's proposal to establish Optional Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Endorsements for educators, coaches, and instructional leaders. As a school leader committed to the success of our Dual Language Immersion program, I believe these endorsements represent a critical step forward in strengthening bilingual education across our state.

The proposed endorsements—tailored for teachers, coaches, and instructional leaders—recognize the specialized knowledge and skills required to deliver high-quality immersion instruction. By offering targeted professional development in areas such as foundational DLI practices, instructional leadership, and program evaluation, these pathways will empower our staff to deepen their expertise and enhance the educational experience for our students.

In our district, we have seen firsthand the transformative impact of dual language immersion on student achievement, cultural competence, and language proficiency. Providing our educators with access to structured, research-based training through these endorsements will not only support their professional growth but also ensure the continued success and sustainability of our program.

I commend the SCDE for its leadership in advancing bilingual education and enthusiastically support the proposal to present these endorsements to the State Board of Education in September. Please do not hesitate to reach out if additional information is needed. Thank you for your continued dedication to supporting immersion programs across South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Spence', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul Spence, M.Ed
Coordinator of International Programs



386 E. Black Street
P.O. Drawer 10072
Rock Hill, SC 29731

T: (803) 981-1000
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June 16, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

As a district administrator with a central role in supporting Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs in our schools, I am frequently reminded of the critical need for consistent and high-quality training for our teachers, instructional coaches, and school leaders.

Recruiting and retaining qualified DLI teachers continues to be a significant challenge. Additionally, we face difficulties in establishing consistent and effective instructional practices across classrooms and program levels. The support of the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) in providing official endorsement pathways for DLI teachers and leaders would be a pivotal step toward ensuring that all students in our programs receive the highest quality world languages education.

I offer my full support for the proposed DLI endorsement pathways put forth by Dr. Rocío Zalba, World Language Associate at the SCDE, and her colleagues on the instructional team.

Decades of research have shown that Dual Language Immersion is the most effective model for developing true biliteracy when implemented with fidelity. Several neighboring states have already established training and certification pathways that have significantly strengthened their programs. It is time for South Carolina to do the same.

The Profile of the South Carolina Graduate includes essential attributes such as a global perspective, strong interpersonal skills, and critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Dual language immersion programs are uniquely positioned to nurture these competencies in students each and every day.

I respectfully urge your support in approving the proposal for Dual Language Immersion endorsement pathways. This is a critical investment in the future of our students, our schools, and our communities.

Sincerely,

Flor de Lis Morales Torres
Assistant Director of Global Studies
Rock Hill Schools



Blythe Academy of Languages

Inspiring World-Class Learners ■ Foreign Language Magnet Program

Re: Letter of Support for the Optional Dual Language Immersion Endorsements

Dear State Board Members,

As the principal of an immersion elementary school, I am pleased to express my strong support for the South Carolina Department of Education's proposal for Optional Dual Language Immersion Endorsements. These endorsements have the potential to transform the quality of instruction and leadership within our immersion programs across the state.

In a dual language setting, teacher preparation and ongoing professional learning are vital to student success. The proposed endorsement pathways for teachers, coaches, and instructional leaders align precisely with the specialized expertise required for high-quality immersion instruction. These courses will support staff in deepening their understanding of immersion methodologies, instructional best practices, and program improvement strategies, ensuring that our students benefit from a rich, academically rigorous, and culturally responsive bilingual education.

Learning state standards in a dual language environment not only provides a strong foundation in core academic content, but also equips students with a highly valuable and tangible skill: proficiency in a second language. As these students move through their educational careers and eventually enter the workforce, their bilingual abilities will set them apart and open opportunities that benefit both themselves and the state of South Carolina. Developing a multilingual workforce strengthens the state's economic growth, global connections, and ability to compete in an increasingly diverse world.

For our school, this initiative will build staff capacity, foster instructional excellence, and ultimately help us better serve a growing and diverse student population. The Optional Dual Language Immersion Endorsements will enable our teachers, instructional coaches, and leaders to continue providing an enriching environment where students can thrive academically, linguistically, and culturally.

I am grateful for the SCDE's commitment to advancing multilingual education and fully support this initiative. Thank you for your consideration and your ongoing efforts to elevate the quality and impact of dual language immersion across South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Steven Sokohl ~ Principal

100 Blythe Drive • Greenville, SC 29605 • (864) 355-4400





State Board of Education
South Carolina Department of Education

June 24, 2025

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of a Dual Language Immersion Endorsement for our South Carolina teachers. As the Principal of Dreher High School, I have had the privilege of witnessing how the use of multiple languages enhances our campus and student experience through linguistic diversity, academic excellence, and inclusion among our student body.

In the 2025-2026 school year, Dreher will add language immersion programs in Chinese and Spanish, furthering Dreher's and Richland School District One's commitment to biliteracy education. Teachers having the option to earn a Dual Language Endorsement will build their ability to engage students in both English and other World Languages, creating immersive, meaningful learning environments which respect and expand students' language abilities. This curriculum design thoughtfully integrates cultural perspectives, fostering an appreciation of diverse viewpoints and strengthening students' global awareness. We anticipate that our dual language students will show notable progress in reading, writing, and oral proficiency. A Dual Language Endorsement will support not only our teachers but also all teachers to expand best practices for biliteracy instruction.

Dual language programs positively impact students' academic outcomes and cultural competencies. Formal recognition of teacher expertise through a Dual Language Immersion Endorsement will further enrich our new immersion programs, benefiting our students and community. Please feel free to contact me if I may provide additional support for Dual Language Education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lawrence J. Eberlin, Jr.
Principal

RICHLAND COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

3319 Millwood Ave. • Columbia, SC 29205 • Phone: (803) 253-7000 • Fax: (803) 253-7007 • www.richlandone.org



Dr. Monica T. Adams
Principal

Dr. Cicely Maxwell
Assistant Principal

Ms. Devin E. Tanis
Assistant Principal

June 17, 2025

Dear Dr. Zalba:

As a leader within Carver-Lyon Elementary School in Richland County School District One, I would like to express a request for your support for the continued development and investment in high-quality language immersion program in our school.

In our district, we've seen firsthand how immersion education transforms not just individual classrooms, but entire school communities. At Carver-Lyon Elementary School, our immersion program is a cornerstone of what makes our learning environment unique, dynamic, and deeply inclusive, as the only language immersion school in our school district. It empowers students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally—while developing bilingualism and cross-cultural understanding that will serve them for life.

We've watched our students grow into confident, curious learners who navigate both languages and cultures. Our staff, too, benefit deeply from working in an immersion environment. Teachers in our program consistently demonstrate a high level of commitment, innovation, and collaboration. They bring language and culture to life in ways that enrich our whole school, not just the immersion classrooms.

This endorsement is not just about preserving what we already have—it's about pushing forward with what we know works. Continued support of immersion programs at Carver-Lyon Elementary School would allow us to:

- Strengthen the academic outcomes we are already seeing in our immersion students
- Provide targeted professional development that supports bilingual educators
- Expand opportunities for all students to engage with multiple languages and cultures
- Build on the sense of pride, belonging, and community we've nurtured in our school

We truly believe that strong immersion programs are one of the most powerful ways to prepare students for the future. They reflect our district's values—equity, excellence, and opportunity—and we are eager to see them supported and expanded.

Your dedication to supporting our language immersion programs is commendable.

Sincerely,

Monica T. Adams, Ed.D.



Delmae Heights Elementary School
1211 South Cashua Drive
Florence, SC 29501

July 2, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the implementation and expansion of a **Dual Language Endorsement** for classroom teachers working in **language immersion programs**. As our educational system strives to prepare students for a globally interconnected world, dual language and immersion education have proven to be among the most effective approaches for fostering bilingualism, biliteracy, academic achievement, and cross-cultural competency.

Teachers in dual language and immersion settings face unique instructional demands. They are not only responsible for teaching core academic content but must do so while supporting students in developing proficiency in two languages. A Dual Language Endorsement would provide formal recognition of the specialized skills, knowledge, and pedagogical strategies required to successfully teach in these complex settings.

A well-designed endorsement program would ensure that educators are adequately trained in:

- **Second language acquisition theory**
- **Culturally responsive pedagogy**
- **Sheltered instruction and scaffolding techniques**
- **Bilingual assessment and differentiation**
- **Development of biliteracy across content areas**

By supporting this endorsement, we are investing in teacher quality, program effectiveness, and most importantly, in the academic and linguistic success of our students. The endorsement would serve as a vital component in professional development pathways, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified dual language educators.

Doing so will help strengthen the integrity and sustainability of immersion programs and affirm our commitment to equity, diversity, and excellence in education.

Thank you for considering this important initiative.

Sincerely,
Roy Ann Jolley,
Principal