

21 August 2023

Dr. Daniel P. Corr
Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington St.
Executive Tower Suite #300
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Dr. Corr and Members of the Arizona State Board of Education:

On behalf of TESOL International Association's over 13,000 members worldwide and the over 100 members and fellow advocates in Arizona, we strongly urge you to reconsider the decision to exclude English language learners (ELs) in Arizona from the Dual Language Instruction (DLI) programs.

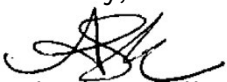
These programs, especially two-way DLI, have proven to benefit both minority-language and majority-language students in their academic achievement, especially in math and sciences (see, e.g., Marian, Schroeder, Shook [here](#) and NC Research [here](#)) and lead to enhanced career opportunities. In short, EL students as well as native English-speaking students are better prepared for academic success and the outcomes resulting from that success.

Arizona has, by some estimates, up to 45,000 foreign-born ELs in its public education system (see MPI [here](#)), or just over 4% of the overall student population. Innovative and effective methods of engaging and preparing these students are exactly what is needed, and what has been outlined in the 2020 Arizona EL Education Task Force. Moreover, many of these students come from low-income families who have limited educational access to DLI programs – something that even US Congressman Raúl Grijalva seeks to address through the SYLLABLE Act (see [here](#)), which promotes access to DLI programs.

TESOL champions Two-Way DLI programs and advocates for access for all students as part of language learning but especially for ELs. These programs are the most effective model. Access should be expanded, not restricted.

We, therefore, respectfully ask that that these programs be available to all ELs throughout Arizona without any limitations. Taking such a position, the Board of Education will actively demonstrate its commitment to all students' success.

Sincerely,



Amber Crowell Kelleher
Executive Director
TESOL International Association