Dual Language Learner Study Pilot

Expansion Phase Projects Summary

The expansion phase is the final phase in a three-part Dual Language Learner (DLL) Pilot Study authorized by First 5 California (F5CA) Commissioners 2016. The DLL Pilot Study is being implemented in 16 counties selected for participation using sampling methodology to ensure representativeness of languages and geography. The 16 counties participating in the study are Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Yolo. The expansion phase will be implemented through December 2021. This document summarizes projects counties intend to implement based on their applications to F5CA for the expansion phase.

Overview. In general, the 16 pilot counties are implementing strategies in two general categories designed to: (1) build the capacity of EC professionals to support young DLL children and their families, and (2) engage DLL families to promote the importance of bilingualism, support literacy activities at home (including the distribution of age- and language-appropriate books), and help families recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. Within these two general categories, counties are choosing different types of specific strategies to implement (see text box below).

DLL Expansion Projects: Strategy Highlights

- *Offer family engagement activities* such as virtual literacy events, "family engagement corners" in housing complexes, Parent Cafes, or Creative Connections workshops.

- *Provide training to early childhood (EC) professionals*, leveraging Quality Counts California (QCC) infrastructure, and using a variety of professional development packages such as Personalized Oral Language Learning (POLL), Teachers Acquiring Language Learner Knowledge (TALLK), and other curricula.

- *Collaborate with QCC systems in concrete ways*, such as training QCC coaches or distributing books through QCC sites, or through efforts to strengthen QCC systems to better meet the needs of DLL children and families.

- *Distribute age- and language-appropriate books and/or home "learning kits."*

Integration with QCC. All the Pilot Study counties plan to use expansion funds to build on local QCC efforts. These efforts include using the QCC infrastructure to expand

training opportunities, partnering with centers and home-based settings engaged with QCC to reach families, distributing books to providers/families, and engaging in systems-level efforts to ensure DLL children are meaningfully included in QCC system requirements such as the rating framework and incentive system.

Family Engagement. County family engagement strategies range from engaging families through mobile or virtual literacy events, creating "family engagement corners" in housing complexes, distributing age-appropriate and linguistically appropriate books and/or kits to promote learning at home, offering trainings or events for providers and families, and working with families to assess and address their specific needs, including those related to COVID-19 issues.

Professional Development (PD). Most counties indicated the specific approach they planned to use to train teachers such as POLL (the most common approach selected), California Preschool Instructional Network, Guided Language Acquisition Design, and TALLK. Several counties plan to collaborate on the development of a new unit-bearing PD course, with accompanying communities of practice, leveraging both DLL Pilot Study funds and other sources.

Coordination with Other Counties. In their applications, most counties (13 of 16) explicitly indicated that they plan to collaborate with other counties in some capacity such as leveraging infrastructure, opening PD opportunities to staff from other counties, or codeveloping new training content. In the applications, the 16 pilot counties identified a total of 23 other (non-pilot) counties that they would collaborate with, in some capacity – the most common being opening DLL expansion-supported trainings to EC professionals located in other counties and working with other counties to embed DLL supports within the QCC system. In sum, DLL Pilot Study funds may reach a total of 39 counties (16 involved with the DLL Pilot and 23 additional counties through partnerships).

Languages. Most counties (13 of 16) indicated the specific languages preferred by DLL families that would be addressed through the DLL expansion projects. Most common was Spanish, followed by Chinese and Vietnamese. Other languages mentioned included Armenian, Dari, Hmong, Korean, Mixtec, and Russian.

Providers, Children, and Families Served. Based on data provided in applications, approximately 11,000 providers will be trained, and 53,000 children will be served across counties.