To mandate the development of a world language immersion roadmap for the city-wide expansion of multilingual education to include the right for communities across the District to secure Dual Language Immersion programs in their schools, and to mandate DC Public Schools to implement eight Dual Language Immersion programs, one in each Ward, to begin in school year 2020/21.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Dual Language Immersion Accelerator Amendment Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this act, the term:

(1) “Accelerator Program” means the eight-additional dual language immersion programs, one in each Ward, by school year 2020/21.

(2) “Dual language immersion” or “DLI” means an instructional setting in which a student receives at least 50% of instruction exclusively in a Partner Language.

(3) “DCPS” means the District of Columbia Public Schools.
(4) “Participating school” means one or all of the schools selected by DCPS to participate in the Accelerator Program.

(5) “Partner language” means a language other than English in which instruction is provided for at least 50% of instructional time in dual language immersion program.

(6) “World Language Immersion Roadmap” or “Roadmap” means a strategic plan proposing specific policies and implementation framework to expand linguistic and cultural competence in the District of Columbia, including dual language immersion programs in DCPS.

Sec. 3. World Language Immersion Roadmap

(a) The Mayor shall

(1) convene a steering committee to develop and publish a World Language Immersion Roadmap that will serve as a blueprint for the District. The steering committee shall consist of community stakeholders from the business, education, and economic development sectors; including local school and parent leaders, and philanthropic and language education advocacy groups;

(2) contract for technical assistance with a D.C. based non-profit partner with experience in research, technical assistance, policy and advocacy in advancing multilingual education in DC;

(3) conduct a needs assessment of local, global, private, and public sector companies in the District and surrounding jurisdictions;

(4) conduct a review of relevant legislation expanding dual language immersion programs, giving communities a right to such programs;
(5) hold at least one summit of all stakeholders to discuss research on needs assessment and legislation;

(6) submit final report and recommendations to D.C. Council

(b) The Roadmap shall include:

(1) District-wide recognition of the value and need for linguistic and cultural diversity and in particular, for the expansion of DLI programs in DC Public Schools;

(2) A communities’ right to DLI programs policy that shall be codified by the DC Council;

(3) Specific goals to triple the current number of seats in DLI programs by 2025 in existing or new DLI programs;

(4) A framework to build the District’s capacity in languages other than Spanish;

(5) A framework to support linguistic and cultural competence skills through existing District initiatives such as the Office of Out of School Time, the Birth to Five initiative, the Workforce Investment Council, the Community Schools grants and the Office of Multilingual Education;

(6) A framework for supporting the expansion of DLI programs, including assessment, curriculum development, professional development, teacher recruitment, quality standards, metrics to collect data, and the articulation of DLI from elementary through graduation; and

(7) Safeguard measures to ensure equitable expansion of DLI programs that take into account the need for greater access to and participation by students and residents from historically underrepresented and underserved groups regardless of language spoken at home.
Sec. 4. Accelerator Program.

(a) DCPS shall implement a new Dual Language Immersion program in each Ward of the District by school year 2020/2021. Each DLI program shall start at the lowest grade offered by each participating school but shall not be limited to only one grade, and will encompass the whole grade band of each grade included in the DLI program. Seats in the new DLI programs shall be open by December 2019 for the MySchoolDC lottery.

(1) DCPS will identify the participating school in each ward by prioritizing schools where:

(A) Communities have expressed a desire for DLI;
(B) School-based administrators are open to implement a DLI program; and
(C) there are the most at risk populations, the greatest needs for achievement, or enrollment growth.

(b) DCPS shall:

(1) Establish a budget line item of non-lapsing funds to provide each participating school with a grant of $50,000 per year up to 7 years to include:

(A) Reading library and literacy materials $10,000 per additional grade;
(B) Instructional materials and resources $10,000 per additional grade;
(C) Professional development of $10,000;
(D) Visa sponsorship $10,000; and
(E) Community Engagement $10,000

(2) Create two full-time employee positions at DCPS to be DLI coordinators for these additional 8 DLI programs.

(3) Conduct a program evaluation of the dual language immersion accelerator program.
On or before October 1, 2022, and each year after for the duration of accelerator program, a report to the Education Committee.

Sec. 5. Rules.

DCPS, pursuant to Title I of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1204; D.C. Official Code § 2-501 et seq.), shall issue rules to implement the provisions of this act.

Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.


Sec. 7. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.