

EMMA Partner Invite

Greetings: [inset organization name] is receiving this letter because your leadership has expressed an interest in supporting the mission of the Educators Multicultural Multilingual (EMMA).

EMMA-Educators for a Multilingual Multicultural America is responsible for the care, use and on-going development of the National Dual Language Education Teacher Preparation Standards (NDLETPS). Under the auspices of CAEP as a Specialized Professional Association, EMMA aims to collaborate with institutions of higher education as they work to cultivate a sufficient and highly qualified dual language teachers workforce nation-wide. A vital secondary goal for EMMA is to assist SEAs, LEAs, professional organizations, and other educational entities to operationalize theoretically anchored professional development and guidance for in-service dual language teachers.

Our EMMA mission is twofold: (1) to support education preparation programs' accreditation efforts and (2) to serve the field at large whether at the state or local level and in relation to the National Dual Language Education Teacher Preparation Standards. Since the approval of our application in Spring 2021 to establish a Specialized Professional Association under CAEP for the preparation of dual language education teachers we have been meeting with partners and potential partners to envision and identify goals and potential activities to realize our mission. Over this year several significant events have transpired that we would like to share with you.

- Currently there are 27 states that offer SPA review as an option for their providers, four of which require SPA review for any providers in their state that are seeking CAEP accreditation (Delaware, Indiana, South Carolina, and Washington DC); this means that Educator Preparation Programs dedicated to the preparation of dual language education teachers in these states and jurisdictions will likely adopt the national standards.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently announced that they now accept CAEP accreditation with SPA recognition in lieu of a state major program review. If an institution is CAEP accredited with SPA recognition the state will consider that as satisfying the major program review requirement.
- Approximately 700 colleges/schools of education across the US are CAEP affiliated which means that those EPPs dedicated to the preparation of dual language education teachers among these 700 CAEP affiliated entities may pursue accreditation of their dual language education teacher preparation programs.
- Outside of CAEP there has been notable activity and interest in the national standards for the preparation of dual language education teachers. For example, Massachusetts, Washington and the University of Maryland have adopted the standards partially and or in full as in the case of Washington. Other SEAs have expressed interest including Virginia, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Arkansas.
- Related activity including professional development opportunities being provided to dual language education teachers based on the standards in Michigan and Colorado as

well as the gradual proliferation of peer reviewed publications and dissertations that reference the standards.

It is also noteworthy that at least five major goals for EMMA have emerged over the last year through our weekly meetings that intersect with the obligations to CAEP and also the needs of the field at large. The goals presently entail the development of:

- a pool of reviewers to conduct the program evaluations associated with CAEP;
- an assessment for teacher accreditation based on the National Standards;
- a digital badge or micro credential based on the national standards;
- a handbook to facilitate the use of the National Standards by SEAs, IHEs, LEAs, and tribal councils;
- professional development opportunities for faculty engaged in the preparation of dual language education teachers anchored to the national standards.

In sum, we maintain that the publication of the national standards along with the establishment of the SPA (EMMA) through CAEP have created an all-new space for dual language education activities in the US along with at least five formidable professional obligations.

Considering what has been happening out in the field and the related evolution of our thinking, it is time to move forward with the establishment of the EMMA Consortium. We know your organization can play an active role in advancing EMMA's initial agenda, establishing a new professional network, and shaping EMMA's future. At this time, we ask that you consider making a formal commitment to launch EMMA by making a financial contribution and become a member of the EMMA consortium. The membership fees, to be used for general operation costs, are as follows:

- \$1,000 (minimum) for organizations with an annual budget of less than 500k
- \$2,000 (minimum) for organizations with an annual budget of more than 500k

We would greatly appreciate a timely response by ____ TBD ____.

In closing, and as we hope is evident, EMMA's time has come, and we need your organization's support and expertise to get to the next level. We anticipate establishing mutually beneficial professional working relationships and activities. Please communicate any questions your organization might have or to request a meeting with us. We look forward to your organization's response.

In solidarity,