

# **Bilingual Teacher Pathway Program (BTP)**

US Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA)

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**Purpose:** The Bilingual Teacher Pathway (BTP) is designed to fill critical shortages of bilingual/bicultural teachers in the Portland and Southwest Washington regions. Working with district partners, we recruit and prepare bilingual/bicultural instructional assistants for initial teacher licensure, along with an ESL/bilingual endorsement. Our students seek to integrate their cultural wisdom with an academic knowledge base to enhance their skills and services in the instruction of all students, but particularly those with diverse cultural, linguistic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Through a strong foundation in the social and cultural bases of learning, the BTP students learn to apply their unique perspectives for student, family, community and cultural advocacy and effective service delivery.

**Method:** The project will recruit 25 bilingual/bicultural paraprofessionals each year into BTP's teacher licensure program; support and retain BTP students to initial teacher licensure with an ESL/bilingual endorsement through individualized advising, assessment, student services, financial support, mentors and community building; coordinate a seamless program of coursework and field experiences for bilingual/bicultural paraprofessionals in the Portland Metro and Southwest Washington regions among community colleges, Portland State University and local school districts; provide a research-based program of coursework to prepare bilingual/bicultural preservice teachers to effectively teach all students, especially those with limited English proficiency; and provide specialized fieldwork for BTP students.