



Two-Way Dual Language Program

WHAT IS THE TWO-WAY DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM?

The Two-Way Dual Language (DL) program in Fort Worth ISD is a program in which Spanish-speaking and English-speaking students (approximately an equal number of each group) develop the availability to understand, speak, read, and write both languages while learning challenging academic content appropriate for the grade level. In order to reach the desired outcomes of the program—full bilingualism and bi-literacy in two languages and multicultural understanding students should be enrolled in the program as early as possible (PK or K) and should remain in the program until at least Grade 5.

WHO ARE THE STUDENTS TO BE ENROLLED IN THE TWO-WAY DL PROGRAM?

There will be two groups of students:

English Learners (ELs) automatically enrolled – Students who are Spanish-speaking and identified through assessments to fit the criteria for English Learner (EL) status.

Opt-In students – Students who are native English-speaking whose parents apply and agree to have their children participate in the Dual Language program.

WHEN WAS THIS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED AND IN WHAT SCHOOLS IS THE PROGRAM OFFERED?

The Two-Way DL program was established in grades PK and K in 2013-14 on three elementary campuses: North Hi Mount, Lily B. Clayton, and Christene Moss. The program moved up to Grade 1 on those campuses in 2014-2015 and continues to move up one grade level per year, to reach grade 5 in 2018-19. Fort Worth ISD established additional Two-Way DL programs on the following campuses:

Como Elementary	Maudrie Walton	DeZavala
Burton Hill	Sunrise-McMillan	Harlean Beal
A.M.Pate	Charles Nash	South Hi Mount

HOW WOULD THIS PROGRAM BENEFIT MY CHILD?

The child will benefit because students in both groups (the English-speakers and the Spanish-speakers) become proficient in two languages. Instruction occurs in both languages throughout the program. On a national level, the Two-Way Dual Language model, has shown through highly respected research in the field, is the most effective model in producing students who, become proficient in two languages, and also master academic content at a higher level than do students in other second language development models. (See Thomas and Collier <http://njrp.tamu.edu/2004/PDF/Collier.pdf> for detailed information on the research study.)

WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED TO REMAIN IN THE PROGRAM THROUGH GRADE 5?

Full proficiency in a language does not happen quickly, especially when language proficiency is connected with academic content. Children may develop “communicative” proficiency (meaning, the ability to speak in day-to-day social situations) quickly, but real academic proficiency and real bilingualism and bi-literacy must be developed over time, in context with academic content such as math, science, and social studies in ever-increasing levels of complexity and challenge. Removing a child from a DL Two-Way program before Grade 5 would decrease the benefits of the program for the child.

WHAT SUBJECTS WILL MY CHILD LEARN AND IN WHAT LANGUAGE?

In PK, K and Grade 1, students will learn the core subjects as follows...

- Literacy – in the child’s dominant language,
- Math – in English, and
- Science and Social Studies – in Spanish

Integrated into each core subject, on a daily basis, are other types of bilingual “support” activities designed to build academic concepts, vocabulary, and the ability to speak, read and write in both languages.

Beginning in 2nd Grade through 5th Grade, literacy is taught in both languages (equal time daily for each grade), in English for math and in Spanish for science and social studies. In grades 3-5, science labs can be taught in English after the lesson is introduced in Spanish. Bilingual “support activities continue on a daily basis.



HOW WILL MY CHILD BE ASSESSED?

In the primary grades (PK-2), your child will be assessed with a variety of measures, both informal and formal, as a natural part of the instructional process. The child is assessed to evaluate the proficiency in English and Spanish and learning academic concepts and skills. The language of the assessment will be determined by the language of instruction of each subject area.

In grades 3-5, your child will continue to be assessed using measures as used in PK-2, but will also be assessed with the STAAR tests. ELs and Opt-in students may, upon joint approval of the campus assessment committee (LPAC) and parent, test in English or Spanish in any grade.

WHO WILL TEACH MY CHILD?

Teachers who teach in a DL Two-Way program are fully bilingual and bilingual-certified. When the program moves up in grades 2-5 in subsequent years, the campus may decide to pair an ESL-certified teacher with a bilingual-certified teacher. The students will benefit from the high levels of language skills and content knowledge of two teachers as the content level progresses through the grades. All DL Two-Way teachers are also required to participate in an initial 12-hour DL Training about program implementation and then participate each year in ongoing professional development and instructional support.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD WITH HOMEWORK IN A SECOND LANGUAGE? IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE IN THE SUBJECT IS BEING TAUGHT.

You can...

- Provide a quiet place conducive to study at home;
- Provide ample time to complete homework; have your child explain to you in your language what he/she is doing and let the child “teach” you some words and expressions from the second language;
- In advance ask your child’s teacher questions about the homework to provide guidance at home;
- Read the DL teachers’ weekly newsletter and the district’s online Parent-at-a-Glance documents containing information about the content and skills your child is learning.

HOW DO I ENROLL MY CHILD IN THIS PROGRAM?

- Complete Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten online registration between April 1- 26, 2019.
- Parents who respond to questions on the Home Language Survey with English to both questions and 1 and 2 will be asked if they are interested in applying for the Two Way Program as an opt-in (native English speakers only), if the program exists on their home campus.
- Parents who reply “yes” will be directed to a link where they will be able to complete the *Application for Participation in the Two Way Dual Language Program*.
- A lottery will be employed to select the needed number of opt-ins.
- Opt-in parents will be notified of their selection in the program or placement on a waiting list by a letter sent by the Bilingual/ESL Department.

Bilingual/ESL Department Contact Information

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