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Mokena School District 159



Dual Language Program



Dual Language is defined as....

“an educational program that emphasizes challenging standards in the core curriculum domains while enriching students’ development in both their first and second language. These programs aim for full proficiency in two languages, an understanding and appreciation of the cultures associated with those languages and high levels of achievement in all core academic domains” (Cloud, Genesee and Hamayan—2000)

Program Benefits

Dual Language program is unique because all children in the classroom learn two languages and cultures. It is comprised of two groups of students, native English speakers and native speakers of a language other than English. Each student is both a language expert and a language learner.

What will Dual Language Look Like in Grades K-5?

Language Allocation	Spanish	Bridge	English
Kindergarten 80/20 1 st Year: 2014-15	ELA/Reading Math	Meta-linguistic & Explicit (ELA/Reading - Spanish to English translation)	Science Social Studies
First Grade 70/30 1 st Year: 2015-16	ELA/Reading Math	Meta-linguistic & Explicit (ELA/Reading - Spanish to English translation)	Science Social Studies
Second Grade 60/40 1 st Year: 2016-17	ELA/Reading Math	Meta-linguistic & Explicit (ELA/Reading/Math - Spanish to English translation)	Science Social Studies
Third Grade 50/50 1 st Year: 2017-18	ELA/Reading Social Studies	Meta-linguistic & Explicit (ELA/Reading - Spanish to English translation)	Science Math
Fourth Grade 50/50 1 st Year: 2018-19	ELA/Reading Social Studies	Meta-linguistic & Explicit (ELA/Reading - Spanish to English translation)	Science Math
Fifth Grade 50/50 1 st Year: 2019-20	ELA/Reading Social Studies	Meta-linguistic & Explicit (ELA/Reading - Spanish to English translation)	Science Math

What will Dual Language Look Like in Grades 6-8?

Language Allocation	Spanish	English
Sixth Grade 1 st Year: 2020-2021	Spanish Cultures I	ELA/Reading Social Studies Science Math
Seventh Grade 1 st year: 2021-2022	Spanish Cultures II	ELA/Reading Social Studies Science Math
Eighth Grade 1 st year: 2022-2023	Spanish Cultures III	ELA/Reading Social Studies Science Math

Dual Language Instruction is:

- Content area information is initially taught in target language. Time is allocated to “bridge” information between Spanish and English
- Equal status is given to both languages
- Dual Language students learn using the same curriculum objectives as monolingual students
- Students are expected to meet the same high academic standards as the monolingual classes

Program Implementation

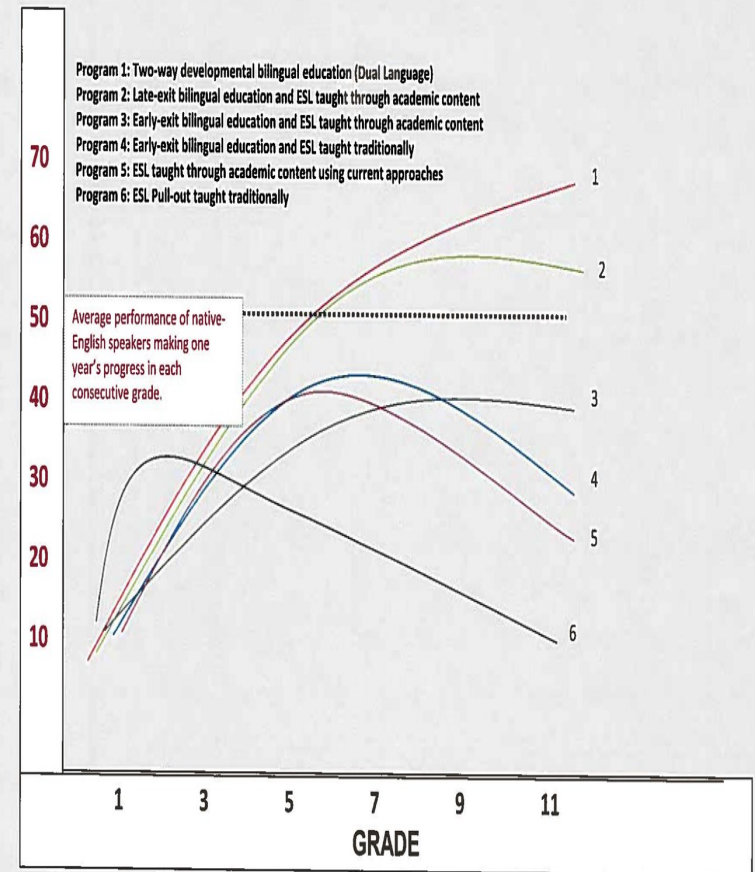
- Students attain bilingual, bi-literate, academic and multicultural proficiencies
- The second language is used in meaningful situations, to learn and to communicate socially and academically

District 159 Implementation Timeline

Grade	2014 – 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
Kdg.	80/20	80/20	80/20	80/20	80/20	80/20
First		80/20	70/30	70/30	70/30	70/30
Second			70/30	60/40	60/40	60/40
Third				50/50	50/50	50/50
Fourth					50/50	50/50
Fifth						50/50

Program Information

STUDY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER ACHIEVEMENT ON STANDARDIZED ENGLISH READING TESTS ~ THOMAS AND COLLIER 1997 - 2012



Frequently Asked Questions

Q What are the expectations of the English-Spanish Dual Language Program?

A The goals of the English-Spanish Dual Language Program are that, after six to seven years of instruction, students will be able to:

- Use two languages comfortably and effectively in social situations appropriate for their age level;
- Communicate effectively through reading and writing in two languages at a level appropriate for their age;
- Perform academically at grade level commensurate with their monolingual English speaking peers, and;
- Demonstrate an appreciation of cultural diversity and cross-cultural competence across a variety of social situations.

Q What if I change my mind after my child is in the program and want to pull him out?

A Since bilingual proficiency is a long-term commitment and available space for families is limited, we ask that you make the commitment to the program for at least a full year. When a child is pulled from the program, that space is immediately made available for the first child on the waiting list. Consequently, there is no guarantee of re-admittance.

Q What are the benefits for my child in the Dual Language Program?

A Native English-speaking children will develop Spanish as a second language at an early age while continuing to grow in English. Native Spanish-speaking children will develop English as a second language while enriching their native language.

All children will learn appropriate academic skills while developing their bilingual proficiency. Moreover, your child will be able to develop social skills that allow him to make friends in a multicultural and multilingual world. Brain research has shown that bilingual speakers have the opportunity to

Q Will my child progress through the general education curriculum at a slower rate than children in traditional classes because he is learning it in Spanish too?

A No, the Dual Language classes implement District 159's recommended curriculum at the same rate as other classes. Through careful scaffolding and interactive approaches, children learn the academic content while developing their respective languages.

Q Will my child fall behind in basic skills, such as reading, writing and math, because of the second language?

A No, national studies have shown that children in dual language programs, as a group, perform as well or better than their respective peers in achievement tests in math, reading and writing.

Q Will my child learn to read and write in English or Spanish first?

A Children are taught to read, write, listen, and speak simultaneously in both English and Spanish using a balanced literacy approach beginning in kindergarten. The District 159 goal is for all children to be reading at grade level or higher by third grade in English. Students continue to increase their proficiency in Spanish and English as they progress through the grade levels.