



MONTGOMERY
Independent School District

**Dual Language
Program Guidelines
2018-2019**

Montgomery ISD

Dual Language Program

Montgomery ISD offers a Two-Way Dual Language Program at Lincoln Elementary School and Stewart Creek Elementary School. Dual Language Education emphasizes challenging standards in the core content areas while enriching students' development in both their first and second languages. Dual Language Education aims for full proficiency in two languages, understanding and appreciation of the cultures associated with those languages, and high levels of achievement in all core academic content areas.

PROGRAM GOALS AND BENEFITS

- Native Spanish speakers build their native language proficiency, which helps to strengthen their acquisition of English.
- Native English speakers develop proficiency in Spanish, which helps to strengthen their English skills through cognitive processing.
- All students will have high academic achievement at or above grade level.
- All students will develop positive cross cultural attitudes.
- A partnership between parents, teachers, and administration will create bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural students.
- The district is committed to support and sustain the program.

PROGRAM DESIGN AND LANGUAGE DISTRIBUTION

- The Two-Way Dual Language Program is designed to mix both English learners and English speakers in the same classroom where each student is learning a second language.
- Classes are formed with approximately the same number of native English speakers and English learners.
- Instructional time is divided 50% English and 50% Spanish for Kindergarten through 1st grade. 2nd through 5th grade will transition students to their second language (L2) in reading. Each campus will follow the Dual Language Two-Way Model to ensure that all language minutes are met and equal for both languages to ensure the integrity of the program.

- Reading is taught in the students' primary language (L1) until second 2nd grade.
- Math is taught in English.
- Science is taught in Spanish with vocabulary in both languages.
- Social Studies is taught in Spanish through integration with Language Arts.
- The English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) are implemented in all subject areas.
- The program is rigorous and requires a 6 year commitment.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for English Learners/Native Spanish Speakers

Any bilingual student within the district identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), is automatically eligible for entry into the program for Kindergarten through Fifth grades at Lincoln Elementary School and Stewart Creek Elementary School. During the 2018-2019 academic school year, any newly qualified bilingual student zoned for Keenan Elementary, Lone Star Elementary or Montgomery Elementary will be provided transportation for the Dual Language Program offered at Lincoln Elementary School. Any qualified bilingual student zoned for Madeley Ranch Elementary will be provided transportation for the Dual Language Program offered at Stewart Creek Elementary School. The district reserves the right to modify campus transfers based on the number of LEP students in each grade level and campus to maintain the integrity of the Dual Language Program.

Eligibility for Non-LEP/Native English Speaking Students

Entry into the program for native English speakers is only allowed at the start of Kindergarten through a limited selection lottery process. Eligibility for native English speaking students is based on (but not limited to) the following criteria:

- Students must be enrolled in Kindergarten for the upcoming school year, and reside in the Lincoln Elementary School or Stewart Creek Elementary attendance zone.
- Applications must be completed and submitted during Kindergarten registration.
- Due to the limited number of spots available for the Dual Language Program, applicants will be placed in a lottery. A drawing will take place for the number of spots available just prior to school starting.

- Applicants drawn in the lottery will be tested for eligibility and must demonstrate high levels of oral language and listening skills based on an English oral language proficiency exam to qualify.
- A selection committee will review applications and oral testing results.
- Applicants that meet all entrance qualifications will be offered placement in the program.
- Preference will be given to students who are siblings of current Dual Language Program participants that meet all eligibility qualifications. Siblings will not enter into the lottery drawing.
- Class make up will be determined by enrollment of qualified bilingual students in Kindergarten in order to maintain the integrity of the 50-50 Dual Language Program model.
- Students transferring from another Texas district's Dual Language Program may be eligible for the program based on availability of space and a review of eligibility requirements.

PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY

- English learners/LEP students will complete an oral language assessment in both languages upon initial enrollment in the program, mid-year, and at the end of each school year.
- Non-LEP/Native English speakers will complete an oral language assessment in Spanish beginning in 2nd grade at the beginning, middle, and end of the year through 5th grade.
- Curriculum based assessments will be administered in the appropriate language of instruction throughout the course of the year.
- Screeners will be administered three times per year in reading to track progress in fluency. Kindergarten and First grade will monitor progress in reading in their L1. Grade 2 through Grade 5 will monitor progress in reading in both L1 and L2.
- Progress and grade reporting will follow district guidelines.
- Parent commitment and involvement, as defined in the parent contract, will be sustained throughout the duration of the contract term.

REQUEST TO WITHDRAW

Research shows that it takes at least 5-10 years to become biliterate. Therefore, in a Dual Language Program, students that have been accepted into the program have made a long-term commitment to remain in the program through fifth grade as documented by a parent contract signed upon entry into the program. Consequently, requests to withdraw will only be considered under extenuating circumstances, and must go through a decision committee that will include the classroom teacher and the campus administration. Once a native English speaking student has been withdrawn, they will not be re-admitted into the program.

OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND 5TH GRADE

Dual Language Program participants who wish to continue as advanced Spanish learners in junior high will have the opportunity to take Spanish Enrichment Courses to continue to grow and strengthen their Spanish language acquisition and global competency skills. Through continued participation in Spanish Enrichment Courses, your child will have the opportunity to acquire high school credits as early as 7th grade, and earn dual college credit as soon as 9th grade.

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

The Dual Language Program provides an extraordinary learning opportunity for the students of our district that will go far beyond the walls of the classroom. The ongoing partnerships and shared commitment to excellence among stakeholders will ensure that the goals we have set forth will meet or exceed our expectations.

We are excited to be sharing the best measure of success – bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural students who are well prepared for their future and have been equipped with the tools to have full access to our rapidly changing world.