



**MISD Dual Language
Immersion/Two-Way Program
Guidelines
2023-2024**



Montgomery ISD

Dual Language Immersion/Two-Way Program

Montgomery ISD offers a dual language immersion/two-way bilingual/biliteracy program model at Montgomery Elementary. A two-way dual language immersion program model emphasizes challenging standards in the core content areas while enriching students' development in both their first and second languages. Dual language immersion 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 dual language immersion/two-way program model is designed to mix both emergent bilinguals and native 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 emergent bilinguals.
- 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. The campus will follow the dual language immersion/two-way model to ensure that all language minutes are met and equal for both languages to ensure the integrity of the program.
- Reading/Writing/Word Study are 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 with vocabulary in both languages.
- The English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) are implemented in all subject areas.
- If a student should fail to progress in this program at any grade level, the best instructional program for the student will be reviewed and the student could be moved out of the program.
- The program is rigorous and requires a 6 year commitment.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for Emergent Bilinguals/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 Montgomery Elementary with transportation being provided district-wide.

Eligibility for 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.
- Applications must be completed and submitted during early Kindergarten registration.
- Due to the limited number of spots available for the dual language immersion program, applicants will be placed in a lottery. A drawing will take place for the number of spots available.
- 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, as well as proficiency on a kindergarten readiness assessment 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 immersion 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 immersion/two-way model.
- Students transferring from another Texas district's dual language immersion program may be eligible for the program based on availability of space and a review of eligibility requirements.
- Behavior that impedes learning could result in removal from the program.

PROGRAM ACCOUNTABILITY

- 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 7-10 years to become biliterate. Therefore, in a dual language immersion/two-way 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 immersion/two-way participants who wish to continue as advanced Spanish learners in junior high can elect to take Spanish courses to continue to grow and strengthen their Spanish language acquisition and global competency skills. Through continued participation in Spanish courses, your child will have the opportunity to acquire high school credits as early as 6th grade.

METHODS TO EARN A PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENT IN BILINGUALISM AND BILITERACY

A student may earn a performance acknowledgment in bilingualism and biliteracy on the student's transcript by demonstrating proficiency in accordance with local school district grading policy in two or more languages by:

(A) completing all English language arts requirements and maintaining a minimum grade point average (GPA) of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; **and**

(B) satisfying one of the following:

(i) completion of a minimum of three credits in the same language in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; **or**

(ii) demonstrated proficiency in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Level IV or higher in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of the equivalent of 80 on a scale of 100; **or**

(iii) completion of at least three credits in foundation subject area courses in a language other than English with a minimum GPA of 80 on a scale of 100; **or**

(iv) demonstrated proficiency in one or more languages other than English through one of the following methods:

- a score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP exam for a language other than English; **or**
- a score of 4 or higher on an IB exam for higher-level languages other than English course; **or**
- performance on a national assessment of language proficiency in a language other than English of at least Intermediate High or its equivalent.

In addition to meeting the requirements to earn a performance acknowledgment in bilingualism and biliteracy, an English language learner must also have:

- (A) participated in and met the exit criteria for a bilingual or English as a second language (ESL) program; **and**
- (B) scored at the Advanced High level on the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

The dual language immersion/two-way 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.