



# Implementation Guidelines for Dual Language (Two-Way Immersion) Programs

## Goals as a result of being in a Dual Language program:

- Students will develop high levels of academic proficiency in their first language.
- Students will develop high levels of academic proficiency in a second language.
- Students will become fully bilingual and biliterate.
- Students will demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.

## Program Guidelines:

***To be identified as a Dual Language program in Palm Beach County, the guidelines below must be implemented with fidelity.***

- Core academic classes should be comprised of ***balanced numbers*** of two groups of students: native Spanish speakers and native English speakers (considering school demographics). Students are integrated for instruction so that both groups of students serve in the role of language model and language learner at different times.
- A student who has recently arrived to this country (ELL), and who is a Spanish speaker can be placed into the program at any grade, ***regardless of literacy level***. However, due to the rigor of the program, native English speakers should not be placed into the program after the 1<sup>st</sup> grade.
- Core academic instructional time will be divided equally between languages. At least 50% of instructional time must be taught in Spanish. Literacy instruction in both languages (Reading and Writing) is a requirement. Distribution of all other content area instruction in the target language will be determined by the school after careful consideration of availability of materials in the target language.
- There is evidence of a clear and distinct separation between languages.
  - Classroom print is solely in the language of instruction.
  - Instructional materials (textbooks, handouts, ancillary materials etc.) are in the language of the instruction.
  - The teacher speaks solely in the language of instruction for the entire school day. No code-switching!
- Teachers must have certification in the area of instruction, AND pass the District's Spanish Language Proficiency Assessment.
- All decisions made with regards to scheduling, instructional materials, staffing, parental involvement, and professional development should be made after careful consideration of research and existing best practices. Recommended website to use for research is: [www.cal.org/twi](http://www.cal.org/twi).