

Dual Language in Palm Beach County Schools

What is Dual Language?

Dual Language programs, also known as two-way immersion programs, allow students to develop proficiency in two languages by receiving classroom instruction in English and another language. The classroom is comprised of half native English speakers and half native speakers of the other language. Dual language programs provide both sets of students with ample exposure to both languages, allowing them to progress academically while becoming biliterate and bicultural.

What are the Goals of the Dual Language Program?

Students become bilingual and bi-literate.
Students achieve academic excellence in two languages.
Students develop cultural awareness and sensitivity.

What are the Benefits of the Dual Language Program?

Students' sense of self-awareness is enhanced through the exposure to cross-cultural perspectives.

Students are immersed in an additive bilingual environment that supports development of both languages.

What are Characteristics of a Dual Language Program?

Students receive 50% of their instruction in the minority language, and 50% of their instruction in English (the 50:50 model includes instructional content in language arts in the two languages).

Each dual language class is comprised of at least 50% native minority language speakers and 50% native English speakers.

The two languages are kept separate at all times during instruction.

English Language Learners (ELLs) continue to follow their ELL plans and strategies that are developed to guarantee their adequate progress.

Students are expected to meet grade level expectations in all subject areas.

Assessment of student progress is required in both languages.

What are the Implementation Requirements?

The school must have at least 25% of the total school population who speak a specific minority language. In schools where more than one minority language group is 25% of the total school population, the school decides which language(s) will be offered in the program.

The program is approved by the School Advisory Committee (SAC), the Parent Leadership Committee (PLC), and the Area Superintendent.

Schools need one year of planning for effective implementation.

Teachers in the program train in best practices and second language acquisition and literacy.

Teachers must be proficient in the language of instruction. Proficiency in the target language is demonstrated by either Florida certification in a foreign language or a language proficiency assessment administered by the Department of Multicultural Education.

A commitment is made for training in best practices and second language acquisition and literacy for teachers in the program.

Students are committed to participate in the program in grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

Who Monitors the Dual Language Program?

All dual language programs will be monitored by the Department of Multicultural Education for compliance with the District ELL Plan and the META Consent Decree.

The Department of Multicultural Education will provide technical assistance and instructional materials when needs arise, based on the monitoring of classroom activities.

For more information, please contact:

Sandra Arroyo
(561) 434-8774
arroyos@palmbeach.k12.fl.us