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***South Bend Community School Corporation***

**Spanish Dual Language Immersion 2020-2021**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**1. What is a Spanish 50:50 Dual Language (Two-Way) Immersion?**

A Spanish 50:50 Dual Language (Two-Way) Immersion is an educational model that integrates native English speakers and native Spanish speakers in the same classroom, with the goal of promoting high academic achievement, first and second language development and cross-cultural understanding for all students. In this model, language learning takes place primarily through content instruction. Academic subjects are taught to all students in both English and Spanish. As students and teachers work together to perform academic tasks, the students’ language abilities are developed along with their knowledge of content area subject matter.In the 50:50 model students receive instruction in Spanish for half of the school day and instruction in English for the other half of the day.

1. **What content is taught in Spanish and what is taught in English?**

Students will have Spanish Language Arts integrated with Science, and Math during 50% of the day and English Language Arts integrated with Social Studies, and Math during the other 50% of the day.

Specials (Music, Art, Physical Education and Computers) will be conducted in English with some integration of Spanish. The English teacher will instruct one group of students in English during the first portion of the day, while the Spanish teacher instructs the second group of students in Spanish. The English teacher and the Spanish teacher will switch groups after lunch and teach students their content in their language to the other group of students. The English teacher is EL – certified and can provide the strategies English Learners (ELs) need to make the content taught in English comprehensible. Additional Kindergarten Instructional Resource Specialists will provide small-group tutoring for English Learners in one class and for Spanish Learners in the other class.

1. **What is the makeup of the student population?**

Generally, half of the student population consists of native speakers of the target language, and the other half are non-native speakers.

1. **Is a placement test required to enter the Spanish program?**

A placement test will not be required for students entering the program in K-2. However, a placement test will be required in grades 3-5, to ensure that students have adequate language skills to be successful in the program*.*

1. **Who is eligible for the placement test after grade 2?**

Students entering the Dual Language program in grades 2-5 are typically native speakers of the target language. At the discretion of the Director, exceptions may be made for non-native speakers, in very unique cases, for students who are transferring from another Spanish Dual Language program, or who have had academic background in the target language. In such cases, academic records may help to determine consideration for the assessment.

1. **Can the test be waived in certain circumstances?**

Yes, at the discretion of the Director, the test may be waived for native-speaking Spanish students who have recently arrived in the United States, after having lived in a country in which the target language is an official language of instruction in schools.

1. **Can non-native speakers “test” into the Spanish side for K-1?**

No, seats on the Spanish side are reserved for native speakers of the target language, who serve as cultural and linguistic models for their peers.

1. **What standards are being addressed in these courses?**

Several standards are being addressed—the Indiana State Academic Standards, WIDA’s (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment) Spanish Language Arts Standards, and WIDA’s English Language Development Standards.

1. **In what language are students assessed?**

It is expected that all relevant classroom assessments will be conducted in the target language. However, in instances where the state mandates English assessments, they will be administered as such, like state standardized assessments in Grades 3-8, the WIDA ACCESS (Assessing Comprehension and Communication from State-to-State) for English Learners and IREAD 3. Other SBCSC assessments will also be conducted in English (NWEA {Northwest Evaluation Association}, Co-Gat).

1. **What resources are used by teachers and students in the DLI program?**

Teachers and students use a variety of resources, including print and digital resources in the target language. Literary and informational texts in the target language are also used.

1. **What are the qualifications for DLI teachers at the elementary level?**

DLI teachers must be certified in elementary education. Many teachers will also have EL Certification, additional training in teaching English-as-a-Second Language or a World language. They will also receive on-going specialized professional development in pedagogy for dual language education and biliteracy.

1. **How can I help my child if I do not speak the target language?**

Teachers provide assignments on which students can work independently. Parents who do not speak the target language can support their children in a variety of ways, including using teacher-provided resources, daily engaging with their children about what they are learning and providing bilingual resources and dictionaries. Parents are also encouraged to read in English or Spanish daily at home with the child to continue native language and literacy skill development, which will transfer to the target language.

1. **May other students who were not in the Spanish Dual Language program at the elementary level enroll in the Dual Language program at the Intermediate school level?**

Yes, students may enroll in the Spanish Dual Language program in grades 5-8 if they are qualified native speakers of the target language. At the discretion of the Director, exceptions may be made for Non- native speakers, in very unique cases, for students who are transferring from a Spanish Dual Language or

Immersion program, or who have had recent academic background in the target language. In such cases, academic records may help to determine consideration for assessment and placement.

1. **How do I enroll my child in the DLI program if I am already registered with SBCSC?**

Families already enrolled with SBCSC may apply for the DLI program by completing and submitting an application form to the Bilingual Services Department office, or by visiting sb.school.

1. **When can I register for the DLI program?**

Families applying for the 2020-2021 academic year are welcome to apply when the application window opens, November 1, 2019.

1. **How many seats are there in the Kindergarten DLI program?**

There are currently 50 seats at McKinley Elementary School and 50 seats at Harrison Elementary School.

1. **How will parents know if/when seats become available?**

The Bilingual Services Department office will contact parents as soon as seats become available.

1. **I know that a student is leaving the program and no one has contacted me regarding the available seat. What should I do?**

The appropriate paperwork must be completed if/when a student is leaving the program. The Bilingual Services Department office cannot offer a seat to anyone on the waitlist until the seat is officially available. Once this process is complete, the Bilingual Services Department office will contact the appropriate family.

1. **My child is first on the waitlist. Why was another student placed?**

There are two waitlists--one for native Spanish speakers and one for non-native speakers. If the seat belonged to a native speaker, it will likely be filled with a native speaker, in order to maintain the 50:50 student populations. The same is done if the seat belonged to a non-native speaker.

1. **Is transportation provided for students in the DLI program?**

Transportation is provided to students living in the South Bend Schools district, except for students living in the school’s walk area. Transportation is the responsibility of the parent or guardian of out-of-district students who are accepted into the program.

1. **What should I do if I move during the year?**

Families who move after they have started school should complete a change of address form.

1. **What happens to my transportation if I am enrolled in the Dual Language program and move during the school year?**

The transportation department will accommodate families who move to another address within the South Bend Schools district, but outside of the school’s walk area. Families who move outside of the South Bend School Community School Corporation, or move within the walk area of their school, may remain in the DLI program without transportation.

1. **Are there before and after-school programs for students in the DLI program at McKinley?**

Yes, there are before and after-school programs (Bright Beginnings and Kaleidoscope Club) at McKinley Elementary School. Bright Beginnings starts at 6:15 a.m. and Kaleidoscope starts from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Pick up is at 6:00 p.m. sharp. The cost for Bright Beginnings is $10.00 per week for each child and the cost for Kaleidoscope for one child is $40.00 per week and $30.00 per week for each additional child. Information is available upon request or you may call Jennie Joyce, Director at 574-393-6054.

1. **Are there before and after-school programs for students in the DLI program at Harrison?**

Yes, there are before and after-school programs (Bright Beginnings and Boys and Girls Club) at Harrison Elementary School. Bright Beginnings starts at 6:15 a.m. and Boys and Girls Club starts from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pick up is at 6:30 p.m. sharp. The cost for Bright Beginnings is $10.00 per week for each child and the cost for Boys and Girls Club for one child is $50.00 per week. Information is available upon request or you may call Jennie Joyce, Director at 574-393-6054 (Bright Beginnings) or Ashley Salyer at 574-393-3067 (Boys and Girls Club).

1. **Is there a Spanish Dual Language Immersion Pre-K in SBCSC?**

No, there is no Spanish Dual Language Pre-K program in SBCSC at this time.