



MSD of Lawrence Township English Language (EL) and Bilingual Programming Opportunities

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP IS COMMITTED TO BEING THE DISTRICT OF DESTINATION. Supporting students with opportunities to grow both culturally and linguistically in Spanish language bilingual programs is one way this is being accomplished. Lawrence Township students and staff are diverse in interests, talents, backgrounds, and goals. The many voices weave the rich fabric known as the school community and facilitate robust discussions, greater knowledge, and mutual respect. Every student has a place to belong as well as the freedom to be unique.

Two unique programs offered that support bilingual education are One and Two-Way Dual Language Immersion.

Why Bilingual?

The over 50% of the world is bilingual or multilingual. Years of academic research suggest that bilingual students have an academic advantage. They demonstrate improved life-long learning skills, cognitive flexibility, collaborative ability, and cultural awareness. These attributes, along with language skills, translate to highly sought after adults in the job market. In addition, bilingualism has positive effects at both ends of the age spectrum: Bilingual children as young as seven months can better adjust to environmental changes, while bilingual seniors can experience less cognitive decline.

Sources: *The Dana Foundation, Psychology Today,*

Two-Way Dual Language Immersion

- Classroom comprised of approximately 50% native English speakers and 50% native Spanish speakers.
- 80% Spanish and 20% English instruction in Kindergarten through 2nd grade
- 70% Spanish and 30% English instruction in 3rd grade
- 50% Spanish and 50% English instruction in 4th through 6th grade
- Spanish content focused on Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics
- Intentional time to build the target language
- Research based enrichment model of instruction

This program is offered at Forest Glen and Skiles Test Elementary Schools. Forest Glen students continue their Spanish language acquisition program at Fall Creek Valley Middle School and Lawrence North High School. Over time, the Dual Immersion Program will matriculate to Belzer Middle School and Lawrence Central High School.

One-Way Dual Language Immersion

- Classroom comprised of Native Spanish speakers
- 80% Spanish and 20% English instruction in Kindergarten through 2nd grade
- 70% Spanish and 30% English instruction in 3rd grade
- 50% Spanish and 50% English instruction in 4th through 6th grade
- Spanish content focused on Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics
- Intentional time to build the target language
- Research based enrichment model of instruction for second language learners

This program model is offered at Sunnyside, Mary Castle, Indian Creek, and Harrison Hill Elementary Schools. A similar model is also offered in kindergarten classrooms at the Early Learning Center (ELC) Brook Park and Early Learning Center (ELC) Winding Ridge.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

- A traditional model of instruction for students acquiring English
- Specialized approaches to language teaching that is designed for those whose primary language is not English.
- This program focuses on the development of the English language skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- ESL teachers have received specialized training in linguistics and in the delivery of instruction that accounts for a student's second language.

The ESL program is currently offered at all LT schools.

Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency

In 2016, Indiana passed legislation recognizing students for bilingual and bi-literate academic achievement. Students who meet specific criteria can graduate with the "Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency". This distinction on a student transcript designates that they have attained a high level of proficiency, sufficient for meaningful use in college and a career, in one or more languages in addition to English.



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