FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the benefits of the Dual Language (DL) program?

- Students develop proficiency in English and Spanish.
- Students tend to perform higher on achievement assessments than those in a traditional bilingual program.
- Students develop intercultural and multicultural competence to prepare them to succeed in today's increasingly competitive global society.
- Students develop a positive sense of self.

Will my child learn the same curriculum as students in regular classes?

Yes, the *Dual Language* curriculum follows the same District guidelines and standards. *DL* classes cover the same grade level objectives, as do regular English classes. Students work toward the same academic goals regardless of the language of instruction.

Will a second language interfere with my child's English ability?

In most cases, learning another language enhances a child's English ability. Children can learn much about English by learning the structure of another language. Common vocabulary also helps children learn the meaning of new words in English. Experimental studies have shown that no long-term delay in native English language development occurs in children participating in second language classes.

How can parents support their child in the program?

Parents can encourage their child by telling him/her how proud they are that he/she is learning a second language. Parents can communicate they are pleased with their child's progress and communicate that they value their child's ability to speak a second language.

A **wealth** of information at your fingertips

Visit **d300.org/EnglishLearners** to view detailed English Learner Program information, find answers to frequently asked questions, and watch videos of ESL/Dual Teachers discussing the great things occurring inside their classrooms.

ENGLISH LEARNERS
PROGRAMS

— DUAL LANGUAGE —
PROGRAM

DISTRICT 300

DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Serving nearly 1,000 students district-wide, the District 300 *Dual Language Program* aims to ensure that all linguistically diverse students receive a quality education that enables them to succeed academically, close the achievement gap, and attain proficiency in English and Spanish socially within a culturally supportive environment.

What is the Dual Language Program?

The *Dual Language Program* is a form of bilingual education where students are taught literacy and academic content in two languages (English and Spanish). The District 300 *Dual Language Program* offers students a unique opportunity to excel academically while learning a second language.

Who can enroll in the Dual Language Program?

The *Dual Language Program* is open to any students (grade K-3) whose primary language is not English. Native English speakers must enroll in the *Dual Language Program* at Kindergarten.

How can students enroll in the Dual Language Program?

For students whose home language is not English, eligibility is determined by criteria established by the Illinois State Board of Education in accordance with Illinois Administrative School Code 228. Students determined to have met enrollment criteria may seek placement in the *Dual Language Program*.

Students entering kindergarten whose primary language is English are invited to fill out an interest form and may be enrolled based on eligibility and program capacity. Interest forms are only available at Dual Language informational Nights (Dates will be posted at d300.org).

INSIDE A DUAL LANGUAGE CLASSROOM

Dual Language students learn the same curriculum standards as their grade-level peers through classroom instruction that follows an 80:20 Spanish/English Language model.

Language Allocation by Grade Level:

Grade Level	% in Spanish	% in English
K-1	80%	20%
2	70%	30%
3-4	60%	40%
5-8	50%	50%

As the chart above indicates, classroom instruction for all kindergarten and 1st grade students would be taught in Spanish 80% of the time and in English 20% of the time. *Dual Language Programs* follow a content allocation plan to indicate to grade-level bilingual teachers when to teach in English or in Spanish.

DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION

- *Dual Language Programs* offer both one-way and two-way immersion models. The goal of both models is to promote high academic achievement, first-and second-language development, and cross-cultural understanding for all students.

- One-Way Immersion is an educational model in which the student population includes *English Learners* only.

- Two-Way Immersion is an educational model that integrates native English speakers and *English Learners* in the same classroom.

BI-LITERACY ASSESSMENT
How do we know Dual Language students are making progress?

- In a *Dual Language* classroom, District 300 assess our students for two purposes:

  1. To inform how well *Dual Language* students perform in comparison to a native speaker.

  2. To inform the proficiency level of *Dual Language* students as bilingual readers.

- District 300 uses a variety of academic measures to the monitor progress of all learners. In order to make sure students are on track with their learning, District 300 uses local assessments to measure linguistic and academic growth. To measure biliteracy for emerging bilingual students, teachers assess each child's literacy skills holistically, determining their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in two languages.

RESEARCH
What does the Research say about Dual Language Programs and its Benefits?

- Research shows that there are fewer high school dropouts from *Dual Language Programs* than from other programs.

- By late elementary school, *Dual Language* students of varied backgrounds achieve at or above their non-*Dual Language* peers in general education classes.

- Most *Dual Language* students expect to attend college. Thus, not only do *Dual Language Programs* appear to improve academic performance, but may also enhance job opportunities.

For more information on the Dual Language Program, please visit:
www.Teachingforbiliteracy.com or www.thomasandcollier.com