




**Department of Bilingual-ESL Services**  
**DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMS**

*JUNTOS* Spanish-English Immersion  
*UNIDOS* Portuguese-English Immersion  
*AMITÍE* French-English Immersion  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

*Brockton Public Schools' dual language programs are committed to providing academic preparation in two languages with the goal that our students read, write, and speak in both languages in all subject areas and instilling a global perspective leading to career and college readiness. Our vision for these language-additive programs is for all students from all cultures and language backgrounds to become bilingual, biliterate and multicultural.*

<p><b>1. Where are the Dual Language Programs located?</b></p>	<p><b>5. How many students are chosen for each dual language program?</b></p>
<p>All three dual language programs are located at the Manthala George Jr. Global Studies School. School hours are from 9:00am-3:15pm. School has 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom amenities, technology, global school focus, family activities and supports.</p>	<p>The dual language programs follow the Brockton Public School's policies and guidelines for the number of Kindergarten students (allotted) in a classroom. Once the classroom roster is filled, all other students remain on the waitlist.</p>
<p><b>2. How can I enroll my child for one of the dual language programs?</b></p>	<p><b>6. How long does the waitlist remain active?</b></p>
<p>The dual language programs accept in-coming Kindergarten students through a lottery system due to high demand. Parents/guardians complete the <i>Lottery Request Form</i> during the annual Kindergarten registration along with all the required school registration documents.</p>	<p>The current waitlist is active until December of the following academic year when these same students are in grade 1. Historically, calling students from waitlist after this time is rare as it becomes increasingly challenging for any student from the waitlist to make up the language and content development in both languages they gained during their Kindergarten year and the first quarter of Grade 1.</p>
<p><b>3. Can we participate in more than one program's lottery?</b></p>	<p><b>7. Is there bus transportation available to the Dual Language programs at the M. George Jr. School?</b></p>
<p>Yes. Parents/Guardians may submit a Lottery Request Form requesting to participate in any or all dual language programs by designating their program preferences in order: Choice #1, #2, and #3.</p>	<p>Currently, students in dual language programs have access to bus transportation in accordance to the district's guidelines. The School Registration and Parent Information Center (SRPIC) will provide the most current transportation information during kindergarten registration.</p>
<p><b>4. How are students selected for the dual language programs?</b></p>	
<p>Each student's name is added on dual language program's list according to the order they are drawn in the lottery. Families/students will be contacted for a screening and to complete a parent questionnaire until the allotted number of students is reached for each classroom. A balance between boys and girls is considered for each classroom. All other names are considered "wait listed". Several criteria are considered for acceptance into the programs</p>	

<p><b>8. What is the Dual Language Programs screening process?</b></p>	<p><b>12. What if my child has difficulty in the program with learning languages and with the curriculum?</b></p>
<p>Currently, the screening process includes a component of the district's Kindergarten assessment administered to all incoming Kindergarten students. All students are assessed to confirm confident language and readiness skills to ensure strong models for all language learners. Parents will also complete a Parent Questionnaire and briefly meet with the teaching staff as part of the process. Once accepted, parents/guardians must attend the mandatory orientation and information session. This provides a further opportunity to discuss expectations and program components. A Letter of Commitment must be signed by parent/guardian to finalize enrollment.</p>	<p>Learning in two languages takes time and may at times be challenging. We make every effort to support all children in this unique language acquisition program. The dual language programs follow an additive approach where students are receiving instruction in all academic subjects in two languages and maintain the same level of rigor as required by the state and district curriculum guidelines. Parents and teachers are encouraged to discuss any challenges and requests for assistance as soon as possible during the school year. Parents are reminded that academic language learning requires a long-term commitment, perseverance and patience, no matter what their child's age/grade is.</p>
<p><b>9. Is the curriculum of the dual language programs different?</b></p>	<p><b>13. What if I move out of the district or need to change my child's school?</b></p>
<p>The programs follow the district's and Mass. Curriculum Frameworks/Common Core, WIDA, and ACTFL (Foreign Language) standards for both languages. The dual language curriculum is <i>additive</i> in that it promotes bi-literacy, multiculturalism and bilingualism in all subject areas and in both languages. Students are responsible and accountable to complete all assignments, tasks, homework and classwork in both languages.</p>	<p>Families considering moving their child out of any dual language program must first speak with school principal and/or department administrators. Language development and content learning in two languages is a long-term process and removing the child from the program interrupts that progress. After meeting with administrators and other options have been explored, a Withdrawal Form must be signed by the parent/guardian at the Central Administration Bldg. Once withdrawn from dual language programs, the student will be subject to district guidelines and transferred to a school in their neighborhood school zone.</p>
<p><b>10. How are students taught in both languages?</b></p>	<p>If relocating/moving out of the district, parent must also sign the Dual Language Withdrawal Form. In addition, Parents must officially inform the Parent Information Center for all transfers in/out of the district. Returning to the dual language program once withdrawn is contingent on a screening assessment, review of school records, and interview with teachers. Re-entry is not guaranteed and is contingent on several factors including the duration student has been out of the program, maintenance of language and content in both languages, and upon space availability.</p>
<p>All three dual language programs follow a 50%-50% program model in all grades (Kindergarten through grade 5). Both languages are used exclusively during their respective classroom times. Students learn in both languages daily through speaking, listening, reading and writing in all subjects. All content areas- language arts, math, science, social studies are taught/learned in both languages across the year. Projects and assessments are given in all classrooms and in both languages. Students will be graded for content and language development.</p>	<p><b>For further information please contact <u>Department of Bilingual-ESL and Dual Language Services</u> at <u>#508-580-7508</u>.</b></p>
<p><b>11. Can my child enter any Dual Language Program after Kindergarten?</b></p>	
<p><i>Students may be eligible to enter a dual language program after Kindergarten ONLY under certain circumstances and IF space is available:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If student transferring into Brockton Public Schools has also attended a dual language program in another school district: an assessment, school records review, and interview will take place.</li> <li>Students entering the U.S. with similar grade-level language proficiencies: an assessment, school records review, and interview will take place. School records from other school/country will be required.</li> </ol>	

