

**How can students who speak only English learn when they're instructed for up to 90 percent of the day in two languages that they don't understand?**

Trilingual Immersion programs are based on years of research on biliteracy programs, which demonstrates that students perform as well as or better on English tests than their English-speaking peers who have been instructed only in English. Trilingual Immersion teachers are specially trained to make the information meaningful through the use of visuals, objects, gestures, and specialized instructional strategies. And, the program encourages students to help each other.

**Do students in Trilingual Immersion learn the same curriculum as students in English Language Mainstream programs?**

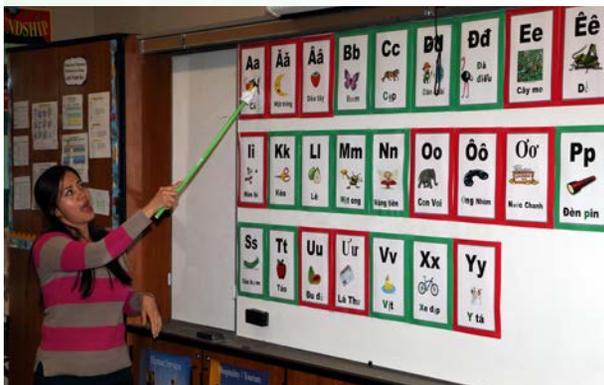
Absolutely! The standards and curriculum are the same for all students in the San Bernardino City Unified School District. The only difference is the language of instruction.

**Will my child learn English in this program?**

All students are provided English-language instruction daily. Students are taught reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in English and Spanish, resulting in mastery of both languages. Instruction in one language connects to and builds upon instruction taught in the other language.

**Is Trilingual Immersion a good option for my gifted child?**

Yes, gifted students will excel in Trilingual Immersion due to the enriching nature of the program. Trilingual and Dual Immersion teachers receive training and



certification to provide specialized instruction for students who are gifted and talented. And, research shows that learning more than one language improves critical thinking, creativity, and academic proficiency.

**How can parents, especially those who do not speak Spanish or Vietnamese, support their child in the program?**

All parents are encouraged to participate in their child's education, and the Trilingual Immersion program requires that families take an active role. High levels of parental involvement and communication are necessary in order to maintain an active parent-school partnership. You can support your child by reading in English and/or Spanish daily. You are encouraged to read to your child in the language in which you are the strongest. Listen to your child read in either language. Ask questions about what they're learning in class.

**HOW TO ENROLL**

**San Bernardino City Unified School District**

*For more information, please contact:  
Language Assessment Center  
(909) 891-1037  
[www.sbcusd.com/lac](http://www.sbcusd.com/lac)*

*Or*

*Visit the SBCUSD Welcoming Resource Center  
781 West 2nd Street, Ste. A  
San Bernardino, CA 92410*

**Top 5 Non-English Language Spoken in SBCUSD:**

- Spanish
- Vietnamese
- Khmer
- Arabic
- Filipino/Tagalog

**SAN BERNARDINO CITY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Making Hope Happen*



*Trilingual Immersion  
Program*

SAN BERNARDINO'S  
*Multilingual Initiative*  
Investing in Our Future Today

*Providing opportunities for all  
SBCUSD students to graduate  
high school with multilingual and  
multicultural capacities, college,  
career, and 21st century ready, and  
prepared to live their lives to their  
fullest potential.*

## OVERVIEW

The San Bernardino City Unified School District, a pioneer in Dual Immersion instruction, will offer the first public, *Trilingual Immersion* program in San Bernardino County. Starting in the 2018-2019 school year, the new Trilingual Immersion program will be offered to an inaugural class of kindergarten students at Belvedere Elementary School.

Trilingual Immersion is a unique and enriching educational program that promotes bilingualism and biliteracy in English and Spanish for both native English speakers and English learner students starting in kindergarten while also introducing Vietnamese as a third language.

The goals of the program consist of attaining high levels of academic bilingualism and biliteracy in English and Spanish, as well as attaining conversational fluency in Vietnamese by the end of sixth grade. Vietnamese instruction will be delivered through engaging activities in visual and performing arts, making it possible for students to demonstrate cross-cultural competency and global awareness. Familiarity with Vietnamese is not required.

Students benefit from the same rigorous, standards-based instruction as students in English Language Mainstream programs. Belvedere Elementary will follow a 80/10/10 model. Starting in kindergarten, students will spend 80 percent of their instructional day immersed in Spanish, 10 percent in Vietnamese, and 10 percent in English. Each year thereafter, Spanish language instruction is reduced and English language instruction is increased by 10 percent. As students enter the upper grades, they receive 50 percent of instruction in English, 40 percent in Spanish, and 10 percent in Vietnamese. Vietnamese instruction remains at 10 percent of the instructional day regardless of grade level.

High levels of parental involvement and communication are necessary to maintain an active parent-school partnership. Parents are required to attend an informational orientation meeting prior to their children entering the program.



## WHAT IS TRILINGUAL IMMERSION AND HOW IS IT SIMILAR TO DUAL IMMERSION?

Trilingual Immersion and Dual Immersion are very similar. The Dual Immersion program brings native English speakers and native Spanish speakers together in a classroom where they learn side by side with the goal of becoming bilingual, biliterate, and culturally competent students. The only difference is elementary school students in Trilingual Immersion will spend 10 percent of the day receiving instruction in Vietnamese.

The San Bernardino City Unified School District's Dual Immersion program was established in 2000. The program serves students starting in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade. The goal of Dual Immersion is for students to remain in the program through 12th grade and graduate with the prestigious state Seal of Biliteracy. Students in third, fifth, and eighth grade also have an opportunity to receive the District's Biliteracy Achievement Award.

## BENEFITS

- All students have the opportunity to be language models in their primary language, fostering a climate of collaboration and cross-cultural understanding and respect.
- Students develop stronger interpersonal skills that help them appreciate and respect other cultures.
- Students are exposed to challenging and accelerated instruction.
- Creativity and analytical thinking are developed.
- In today's global economy, speaking more than one language gives students a competitive advantage in various areas, including college applications and job searches.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Are there any requirements to enroll my child in the new Trilingual Immersion program?

The Trilingual Immersion program is open to all SBCUSD students. Parents are required to attend an informational meeting before enrolling students in the program. Students who have not been previously enrolled in Dual Immersion may request, through the Language Assessment Center, to be assessed for entry into the program.

### Why is SBCUSD using the 80/10/10 Trilingual Immersion model?

The first number refers to the amount of instructional time initially spent in Spanish starting in kindergarten. The second and third numbers refers to English and Vietnamese. In the 80/10/10 model, the amount of Spanish decreases yearly as English increases while Vietnamese instruction remains at 10 percent regardless of grade level.

### When should students enter the Trilingual Immersion Program?

All students can enter the program in transitional kindergarten or kindergarten. Native English speakers can enter the program up until the middle of first grade, pending a language assessment to ensure appropriate placement. Native Spanish speakers can enter the program in any grade, pending a language assessment to ensure appropriate placement.

### How long should my child remain in the Trilingual Immersion program?

Research shows it takes a minimum of 5 to 7 years to develop high levels of proficiency in a second language. It is recommended that students minimally remain in the program until the end of the sixth grade.