

# FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Parent/guardian involvement and commitment are essential to the success of students in the proposed program. Before enrolling in the program, parents/guardians must make a commitment to:

- Maintain the student's continuous enrollment in the program in the school years to come
- With supporting materials from school, work with the child at home in their native language to continue to develop her/his language and academic skills
- Participate in parent meetings and school functions
- Serve as advocates for the program



## QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT US!

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# FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION  
SPANISH/ENGLISH  
50-50 MODEL



**"BILINGUALISM IS AN  
ABILITY THAT SHAPES  
OUR BRAIN AND  
EXPERIENCES FOR A  
LIFETIME."**

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## PROGRAM GOALS

### Bilingualism and Bilinguality

• Students will emerge from the proposed program comfortable and fluent in both Spanish and English communication. They will speak, write and read both languages at equal skill levels

### High Academic Achievement

• Students will develop skills at or above grade level in all academic areas, what has been evidenced in dual language programs over several longitudinal empirical studies

### Cultural Competence

• As they communicate across languages and linguistic abilities, students will learn to respect and appreciate the diversity of people and cultures

### High Self-Esteem and Sense of Identity

• Through development of their primary language/heritage language, learners will learn to value their cultural background. By becoming bilingual and biliterate, they will learn to recognize their own potential

### Cooperative problem-solving

• To help children work together and to value each other, the dual language program emphasizes cooperative learning and problem solving

## BENEFITS OF BILINGUALISM



### COGNITIVE

- Bolsters pride in a student's own family culture
- Builds confidence in own abilities and building upon those abilities
- Builds a mutual respect and sense of community with peers

- Supports intellectual growth and enhances mental development
- Creates more flexibility and creativity in thinking, greater sensitivity to language and a better ability to listen



### SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

- Develops strong thinking skills
- Promotes cross-linguistic awareness
- Increases performance on state-mandated tests (regardless of demographic)



### LEARNING

- Ability to communicate with those who speak another language
- Respect the role language has in cultural identity
  - Experience different cultures and people

- Develops strong thinking skills
- Promotes cross-linguistic awareness
- Increases performance on state-mandated tests (regardless of demographic)



### GLOBAL

## OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION

• Dual Language classes begin in Kindergarten. In subsequent years, one higher grade will be added such that students who begin in kindergarten will progress throughout their schooling will continuously acquiring the target languages.

• Each classroom will have an equal number of students whose primary languages are English or Spanish

• Students will work together in cooperative groups and with their "bilingual buddy"

• Teachers will teach solely in the designated language of that class with no translation

• Half of the instruction will take place in Spanish and the other half in English

• Students will be taught to develop bridges between what they have learned in one language for use in their second language

• Ongoing language acquisition and academic assessment to determine student needs will be performed in both languages

• Content will be taught through enriched education



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