

# **Two Way Dual Language Enrichment Program**

## **Guide and Application**



**Gainesville Independent School District**

**Reaching every student every day to be learners and leaders.**

# Two-Way Dual Language Enrichment Program Information

The Two-Way Dual Language Enrichment Program is offered at GISD in grades PK-5

Two-way immersion is a form of dual language that combines students from two language groups while providing instruction in both languages. The (PK-6) classes are made up of approximately 40% native English speakers and 60% native Spanish speakers. Students learn the academic curriculum through both languages simultaneously. Students serve as language models for each other, while accelerating their learning.

The primary goal of GISD's Two-Way Dual Language Enrichment Program is to allow all students to realize the full benefits of bilingualism which include enhanced cognitive ability, increased academic achievement, heightened multicultural appreciation and understanding, and a competitive edge in the increasingly global society of the 21st century.

Multiple assessment measures, as well as teacher and parent input, are considered when deciding a student's continuation or discontinuation of the dual language program. Ultimately, we want to ensure that each student receives the best possible educational outcome and for some students, this means discontinuing their participation in a two-way dual language program.

## **Goals of the Program**

- High Academic Achievement
- Bilingualism
- Bi-literacy
- Multiculturalism

## **Program Information:**

- Implementation began in 2017-18 with kindergarten students at Edison Elementary School.
- Per state requirements, all teachers providing instruction in a two-way dual language enrichment program must be bilingual education certified for the component of the program provided in a language other than English. Additionally, all teachers must be English as a Second Language certified for the component of the program provided in English.
- Teaching partnerships are established by two teachers, with one providing instruction in English and the other in Spanish.
- Two classes alternate subjects between the two teachers.
- The ratio of English to Spanish speakers in each class will be maintained as close to 40% to 60% as possible per requirements set by the state.
- Class size ranges from 18-22 students per class.
- GISD curriculum will be followed. It may be necessary to adjust the pacing of the curriculum to meet the unique needs of second language learners. GISD curriculum is enhanced with specific language objectives to accommodate the "second language" need.
- Student's reading, writing, and oral language are assessed in Spanish and English.
- Grades are based on assessments in the student's dominant language.
- Students participate in all district and state assessments.
- It is recommended that the parent/student commit to the program through 5th grade.
- All students must be available for assessment prior to the beginning of school.
- Parents are not required to be bilingual for student participation in the program.

## **Enrollment:**

- This is a bilingual program funded by the state and federal government and therefore must adhere to all requirements. The enrollment ratio of native English speakers to native Spanish speakers (EB –Emergent Bilingual) as set by the State is 40% native English speakers to 60% native Spanish speakers.

- Per local guidelines, enrollment into the program is only available to Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students depending state required enrollment ratio and Oral Language Proficiency Test performance.
- Students in 1st - 5th grade who have participated in two-way dual language programs in other districts may enroll in the program depending on state required enrollment ratio and Oral Language Proficiency Test performance.

### **Contact Information**

#### **District Office:**

Amber Rains, GISD BIL/ESL Director  
800 S. Morris St.  
Gainesville, TX 76240  
940-665-4362  
[arains@gainesvilleisd.org](mailto:arains@gainesvilleisd.org)

#### **Campus:**

##### **Edison Elementary** – Grades PK, K, & 1

Principal: Ruben Dominguez  
#1 Edison Drive  
Gainesville, TX 76240  
940-665-6091  
[rdominguez@gainesvilleisd.org](mailto:rdominguez@gainesvilleisd.org)

##### **W.E Chalmers Elementary** – Grades 2, 3, & 4

Principal: Amy Allen  
600 S FM 3092  
Gainesville, TX 76240  
940-665-4147  
[bwhiten@gainesvilleisd.org](mailto:bwhiten@gainesvilleisd.org)

##### **Gainesville Intermediate** – Grades 5 & 6

Principal: Claudia Brito  
2100 N Grand Ave  
Gainesville, TX 76240  
940-668-6662  
[cbrito@gainesvilleisd.org](mailto:cbrito@gainesvilleisd.org)

# Frequently Asked Questions

1. How will GT identified students be served in the Two-Way Dual Language Enrichment Program?
  - a. Students identified as GT will be served in the same manner as any other GT student in GISD.
  
2. When/How will you determine if the program is successful?
  - a. Student progress will be monitored annually to ensure that all students are successful academically. A program evaluation will be completed at the end of each school year to ensure continued success.
  
3. What texts will be used for math and science?
  - a. The GISD curriculum will be utilized in math and science. Supplemental resources will be used to enrich the curriculum.
  
4. When is Spanish offered to GISD students after 6<sup>th</sup> grade?
  - a. Currently, Spanish is offered beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade as an elective course and is offered through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
  
5. Will students be allowed to use their native language on days they are instructed in their “second” language?
  - a. Students will always be allowed to use their language of choice in social settings and emergency situations. However, to fully develop bilingualism the instructional language will be encouraged.
  
6. What is the participation ratio of native English speakers to native Spanish speakers in the program?
  - a. The (PK-6) classes at GISD are comprised of approximately 40% native English speakers and 60% Spanish speakers. State requirements limit the participation of native English speakers to 40% of the students in the program. This will impact the number of native English speakers who will be able to participate in the program. The registration process will adhere to the student ratios and therefore, the number of native English speakers who will be able to participate will depend on the number of native Spanish speakers registered in the program.
  
7. Is there a pre-developed program that you are following?
  - a. We are utilizing GISD’s curriculum following the Gomez and Gomez Two-Way Dual Language Enrichment Model.

<b>Spanish Strand</b>	<b>English Strand</b>
SLAR in Spanish	ELAR in English
Math in English	Math in English
Science/Social Studies in Spanish	Science/Social Studies in Spanish

8. If my child is not selected through the lottery this year, will there be an opportunity to enter the program in 1st or 2nd grade?
  - a. Enrollment into the program for native English-speaking students is only available to Pre-K and KG students depending on space available and maintaining state requirements of native English to native Spanish enrollment ratio.
  - b. Students in 2nd-5th grade who have participated in two-way dual language

programs in other districts may enroll in the program depending on available space, state requirements of native English to native Spanish speakers enrollment ratio, and Oral Language Proficiency Test performance. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

9. Will younger siblings of DL students be guaranteed a spot when they begin Pre-Kindergarten?
  - a. Our goal is to keep the families of students intact as they begin the Two-Way Dual Language Program. Due to changes in enrollment and program demand, siblings are not guaranteed.
  
10. How is homework handled for parents who only speak their student's native language?
  - a. Homework that is not in a family's native language will only be sent home when a student can adequately complete it independently or with proper instructions for parents in the native language.
  
11. How does class size in dual language compare to all other classes?
  - a. Ideal class size in the dual language program will be 18 to 22 students, so an even number of Spanish and English students can be accommodated. Of course, actual enrollment numbers will determine class size. The limit will be 24 to a class.
  
12. Is there a possibility that GISD will discontinue the program?
  - a. GISD is committed to continuing this program. Annual evaluation will be conducted to determine success and sustainability of the program.
  
13. Are there any requirements for enrolling or participating in the program for native English speakers?
  - a. Please review the Enrollment Information and Dates document in this packet for specific time-line and due dates.
  - b. Requirements:
    - i. Enrollment packet turned in or completed online by the due date
    - ii. Participation in information meeting prior to enrollment
    - iii. Students are tested in native languages to meet entrance criteria
    - iv. Fluency in native language as determined by oral assessment
    - v. Selection process is finalized
    - vi. Lottery is held, if needed
    - vii. Parent/guardian commitment to participate in the program through elementary school
  
18. Why is it important for my English-speaking student to be a fluent speaker in his/her native language?
  - a. Part of the program's success for meeting the needs of second language learners is based on having strong language models. Students will be modeling for each other and working together to develop a second language.

# **GAINESVILLE ISD DUAL LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

## **APPLICATION PROCESS FOR NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS**

The following is the application process for parents of English speakers interested in having their child(ren) participate in the Dual Language Program for the 2023-2024 school year.

### **STEP 1: ATTEND PARENT INFORMATION MEETING**

Interested parents should plan to attend a parent information meeting to learn more about the Dual Language Program and its requirements. This meeting is scheduled for:

**March 28 @ 5:00 PM @**

**Gainesville ISD Administration Building, 800 S. Morris, Gainesville, TX 76240**

Applications for the Dual Language Program will be available at that time. Please note that this meeting is for information only and not an indication that your child will be accepted into the program.

### **STEP 2: REGISTER**

PK/Kindergarten registration is @ Edison Elementary and is scheduled for  
Monday, April 8, 2024- 8:00 AM- 7:00 PM  
Tuesday, April 30, 2024- 8:00 AM- 7:00 PM  
Wednesday, May 15- 2:00 PM- 7:30 PM

### **STEP 3: APPLY**

If you are still interested after attending the meeting, complete the application and submit it to Amber Rains. Ms. Rains' office is located in the Gainesville ISD Administration Building, 800 S. Morris, Gainesville, TX 76240 OR you may turn this into the Edison campus. The application contains a letter of commitment to be signed by the parent. The parent must agree to keeping the student in the Dual Language Program throughout the elementary grades, agree to provide academic support at home and indicate an understanding that insufficient attendance, failing grades, or serious misbehavior could result in reassignment to the general classroom.

### **STEP 4: SCREENING**

Once you have submitted an application you will be contacted to schedule an appointment. At that time your child will be assessed to determine his/her basic language and school readiness levels. In an effort to prevent learning difficulties later on, we will only continue the application process for those eligible students who meet the minimum requirements.

### **STEP 5: SELECTION**

Eligible students will be accepted to the program based on space availability. Students will be chosen for participation by lottery in the event that interest exceeds the number of spots available. The remaining openings will be filled through a tiered lottery process.

### **STEP 6: PARENT NOTIFICATION**

Parents will be notified by **July 12**. Students who are not initially selected will be placed on a waiting list for spots that may become available at a later date. The waiting list will close three weeks from the first day of school.

**GISD Two-Way Dual Language Enrichment Program  
Registration Form  
2024-2025**

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female

Language Dominance:  Spanish  English

What grade is your child going to be in (SY 24-25?) \_\_\_\_\_

Has an older sibling in the program:  Yes  No

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternative Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Two-way dual language is a bilingual education model that consistently uses two languages for instruction and communication, with a balanced number of students from two language groups who are integrated for instruction. Dual language promotes cross-cultural understanding and acceptance. The goal of dual language instruction is bilingualism and bi-literacy for all students in appropriate grade-level content. The level of bilingualism and bi-literacy developed through dual language are usually not attained through other bilingual or foreign language instructional models. This level of bi-literacy is achieved due to:

- Literacy and content instruction are provided in both languages.
- Only one language is used during each period of instruction.
- Equal status is given to both languages.
- District curriculum objectives are used within two-way dual language classrooms.

***We understand the information provided regarding the Two-Way Dual Language Enrichment Program in Gainesville ISD and are committed to participation through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are interested in continuing with the registration process for our child.***

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to Amber Rains @ Administration Building OR Edison Elementary*