



**RESOLUTION NO. 202324-8**  
**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DUAL LANGUAGE EXPANSION**

WHEREAS dual language program expansion has been a goal for Salem-Keizer Schools and was brought forward by community organization representatives and parents through the Student Investment Account stakeholder engagement processes and is one of the key strategies of the Student Investment Account; and

WHEREAS dual language in Salem-Keizer Public Schools will be defined as a two-way immersion program; and

WHEREAS bilingualism is achieved when students are comprehending and speaking in both languages, and biliteracy is achieved when students are speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending in both languages; and

WHEREAS more than four decades of research indicates that multilingual learners in dual language programs become orally proficient in English and Spanish and achieve at or above grade level norms in both language reading and writing by grades 5-7, if not sooner; and a significant body of research demonstrates that multilingual learners who receive literacy instruction through their primary language develop higher levels of language proficiency than multilingual learners in mainstream English programs; and

WHEREAS students in dual language education achieve higher overall reading and math scores than non-dual language students, regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic, limited English proficiency, or special education status; and in most cases, by middle school years, dual language students, regardless of subgroup, are scoring a grade level higher than their non-dual language peers in reading and math, and in some cases, they are scoring two grade levels higher; and

WHEREAS students identifying as Latino/a/x comprise the largest demographic group in the district, and 85 percent of all multilingual learners in the district are Spanish speakers, which contributes to creating optimal conditions for a dynamic bilingual learning environment for all; and

WHEREAS students and staff in dual language programs develop strong socio-cultural competency and an understanding and appreciation of their identity; and the ability to recognize similarities and differences in each other and look for opportunities to attach positive cross-cultural attitudes toward fellow students, their families, and the community; and

WHEREAS effective dual language programs are built on three important pillars: bilingualism and biliteracy, high levels of academic achievement, and cross-cultural connections, all which align closely with the goals outlined in the district's Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS dual language is a research-tested program that elevates and builds on the cultural and linguistic assets students bring into our schools and our community, which strengthens students' dual acquisition and proficiency in both languages and allows the district to serve language learners by expanding instruction to multiple languages but never at the expense of the first language and culture; and

WHEREAS enhancing and improving the district's dual language framework that has been implemented and developed for more than 25 years will open the door for other dual language programs in other languages to affirm the assets of our newcomer and multilingual students; and

WHEREAS our community is stronger when we value and build upon the cultural assets of all its members, and effective programs include school staff, school board, and community support and involvement; and

WHEREAS the Salem-Keizer Public Schools Board of Directors commits to supporting the district in the expansion of dual language programs through a thoughtful implementation plan that prioritizes school and community readiness, community engagement, and professional development for our educators; and

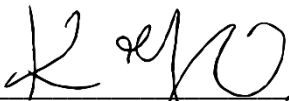
WHEREAS the board supports the district's plan in placing new dual language programs in areas of our community where we have the highest number of Multilingual learners; and

WHEREAS our district has expanded access to the Dual Language Program, increasing the number of schools that offer dual language instruction from 2022 to 2024, where we now have 30 schools with dual language instruction between the elementary, middle, and high school levels; and

WHEREAS the board demonstrates its commitment by continuing to monitor the district's performance and outcomes for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading, Sense of Belonging, K-12 on-track to English language proficiency, attainment of the Seal of Biliteracy, and Graduation goals; and

WHEREAS the board will demonstrate its commitment by asking for regular reports on implementation progress and by supporting funding for sustainability of dual language expansion in the budget approval and adoption process;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Salem-Keizer Public Schools Board of Directors commits to furthering a dual language program of instruction and is thankful to the community representatives and parents who supported the Student Investment Account engagement process, the Salem-Keizer community, and district staff for their hard work and commitment to this implementation.



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Karina Guzmán Ortiz, Chairperson, Board of Directors  
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

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Date May 7, 2024