

FORT WORTH ISD
2023-2024

Fort Worth ISD

**Dual Language
Immersion
and
English as a Second
Language Programs**

Elementary/Secondary



Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Emergent Bilingual Programs

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*A message from the
Emergent Bilingual Programs...*

Welcome to the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD). We are glad that you have chosen to live in this school District, and we look forward to working with you and your children.

Please know that we have high expectations for all of our students and are committed to helping them achieve. We value the home/school collaboration and will continuously keep parents informed of student progress.

We are proud of the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs offered by the FWISD. We are confident that you will be pleased with the progress that your children will make.

Again, welcome to the Fort Worth Independent School District. We are glad that you and your children are part of our education family.

Sincerely,
Emergent Bilingual Programs

What is the purpose of this Booklet?

The purpose of this booklet is to inform parents/guardians of students who are new to the FWISD and who speak or hear a language other than English in their home of the:

- Bilingual and ESL programs offered by the FWISD for emergent bilingual (EB) students,
- program goals and expectations to meet the affective, linguistic, and cognitive needs of EB students; and
- assessment information and criteria for reclassification and program exit.

The Student Placement Center (SPC) staff or the school will review content of this booklet with each parent/guardian and provide them with a copy. Parents/guardians are encouraged to call SPC/school with any questions.

More information on Bilingual/ESL education program benefits are explained on the English Learner Portal:



What are the goals of the Emergent Bilingual Programs?

The goals of the Emergent Bilingual Programs are:

- All students who enter the FWISD in grades PK-5 placed in a DLI program reach full proficiency in both English and Spanish within five to seven years, pass all state-required academic tests, and develop sociocultural competence.
- All students who enter the FWISD in grades PK-8 placed in an ESL program reach full proficiency in English within five to seven years and pass all state-required academic tests.
- All students who enter FWISD in grade 9 or above placed in an ESL program meet graduation requirements in four years, including passing all state-required academic tests.

The Emergent Bilingual Programs envisions emergent bilingual students achieving high levels of language proficiency and content knowledge so that they will be prepared for success in college, careers, and community leadership.

FWISD Programs for Emergent Bilingual Students

- Dual Language Immersion
 - ◊ One-Way (OW)
 - ◊ Two-Way (TW)
- ESL (Elementary)
- Transition ESL (Secondary)
- Newcomer ESL (Secondary)
- International Newcomer Academy (Secondary)
- Success (Secondary)

Dual Language Immersion (DLI)

What is the Dual Language Immersion program?

Dual Language Immersion is an educational approach that promotes biliteracy for all students. Students who speak a language other than English at home are more likely to underperform in key subjects like reading and writing and less likely than their peers to graduate from high school and enroll in college.

However, parents themselves can advocate for an approach that may well empower their multilingual children. We believe the answer lies in FWISD's Dual Language Immersion program.

Dual Language Immersion education holds the promise of giving students access to key 21st century skills. Some of the benefits include:

- High Academic and Linguistic Proficiency in English and Spanish
- Bilingualism and Biliteracy
- High Earning Potential as Career Professionals
- Increased Creativity and Problem-Solving
- A foundation for building cross-cultured relationships
- Sociocultural Competence

Additionally, Dual Language Immersion education provides more opportunities for EB students to reach higher levels of academic achievement along with more positive motivation and a sense of identity.

Families, businesses, and policy-makers increasingly place language, communication skills, and sociocultural competence among the desired outcomes of education.

Dual Language Immersion

How are Spanish-speaking EB students enrolled in the Dual Language Immersion program?

- Students in PK-5 grade who are Spanish-speaking and identified as emergent bilingual are recommended for placement in the FWISD DLI program.
- Recommended placement is determined by the results of an initial language proficiency test.
- Parents will be provided with information regarding the elementary school near their home that offers the DLI program (OW or TW).
- Parents must approve their child's placement in the DLI program in writing.
- Students who do not qualify for the Dual Language Immersion program based on language proficiency may apply to participate through the Two-Way Dual Language application lottery.

What is the difference between the OW and the TW DLI models?

One-Way (OW)

- The FWISD One-Way Dual Language Immersion model consists of students that are predominantly Spanish speaking emergent bilingual and instructs in English and Spanish.

Two-Way (TW)

- The FWISD Two-Way Dual Language Immersion model consists of native Spanish speakers and native English speakers and instructs both groups in English and Spanish.

During the 2022-2023 school year, FWISD implemented the DLI One-Way model in 62 elementary campuses and the DLI Two-Way model in 13 campuses (3 campuses have a combination of both programs).

Dual Language Immersion

What methods of instruction will be used to teach in the Dual Language Immersion program?

All DLI models will provide students with the following non-negotiables:

- The DLI will be provided up to 5th grade.
- Both Spanish and English will be used for instruction with no more than 50% in English each year.
- The language of instruction will be clearly separated by content area.

Students in the DLI program are instructed using the same curriculum as general education students. The only difference is that concepts are taught in two languages. Integrated into each of the core subjects on a daily basis are other types of dual language enrichment activities designed to build academic concepts and vocabulary, and the ability to speak, read, and write in both languages.

How long will your child participate in the DLI program once placed?

Until the 5th grade.

Who will teach in the Dual Language Immersion program?

In DLI program models, instruction is provided by bilingual-certified and/or ESL-certified teachers. Bilingual-certified teachers and ESL-certified teachers are specially trained to provide instruction to EB students that aligns to the individual strengths and needs of each student. Bilingual-certified and ESL-certified teachers work to tailor instruction in the academic areas to ensure transfer of concepts and skills from Spanish to English and English to Spanish.

Dual Language Immersion

What is the language of instruction of Dual Language Immersion?

Students in the DLI daily receive instruction in both English and Spanish on a daily basis.

- PK-K receive 80% Spanish and 20% English.
- Grades 1-2, receive 60% Spanish and 40% English.
- Grades 3-5 receive 50% Spanish and 50% English.

How does the Dual Language Immersion program help students with special needs?

All FWISD programs operate within District guidelines to help identify and support students with special needs. An LPAC member is notified and attends all Admission/ Review and Dismissal (ARD) meetings for each student with special needs. All available resources are utilized to assist such students.

Special Education and ESL teachers collaborate to support these students.

ESL (Elementary)

What is the English as a Second Language (ESL) program?

The ESL program is designed to serve students of all language backgrounds. The program serves students at all levels of English proficiency in grades PK–5. The goal of the ESL program is to ensure emergent bilingual students become proficient in listening, speaking, reading and writing in English using second language acquisition (SLA) methods.

What methods of instruction will be used to teach in the ESL program?

The teachers in the ESL program will use SLA methods which will teach students to understand, speak, read, and write in English while acquiring grade level content knowledge and skills. The curriculum for instruction is the same used in general education classrooms.

What are the instructional goals of the ESL program?

The goal is to ensure the student’s academic success in all subject areas at his/her grade level so that he/she may exit the language support program by the fifth year.

What is the language of instruction for ESL?

The language of instruction is English.

Who will teach in the ESL program?

Teachers who are ESL-certified.

How will the ESL program meet the educational strengths and needs for your child ?

By providing instruction based upon initial assessment results and adjusting instructional language support as student needs change.

ESL (Elementary)

How will the ESL program help your child learn English, yet meet academic achievement standards for grade promotion?

Schools designate a highly qualified teacher to teach English as a second language; the content area teacher is expected to be certified in ESL instruction. This allows for both the language and the academic learning to be accelerated. The campus Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) oversees each student's progress to ensure overall academic achievement.

How long will your child stay in the ESL program?

Students may exit from ESL programs when they pass the state-required academic English test and score "fluent" on an English language proficiency test.

How does the ESL program help students with special needs?

All FWISD programs operate within District guidelines to help identify and support students with special needs. An LPAC member is notified and attends all Admission/Review and Dismissal (ARD) meetings for each student with special needs. All available resources are utilized to assist such students.

Special Education and ESL teachers collaborate to support these students.

Transition ESL

What is the Transition ESL program?

This program is designed for students who are assessed to be nearly proficient in English but require moderate assistance in reading, writing, and/or oral language to be academically successful. In some schools, students at the Transition ESL/English level are placed in separate classes (one or two classes a day); in other schools, students are placed in regular English/reading classes and provided specialized help.

What methods of instruction will be used to teach your child in the Transition ESL/English program?

Transition ESL/English programs are generally for the advanced-level ESL student, the methods used will mirror the methods used in programs for fluent-English speakers, with some accommodations: (1) there will be added linguistic and vocabulary instruction, (2) there will be greater interaction between student and teacher about reading and writing, and (3) there will be added time for completing work if needed.

What are the instructional goals of the Transition ESL/English program?

The goal is to ensure students develop the academic language skills needed to succeed in school and pass the tests required by the state for promotion and graduation from high school.

What is the language of ESL/English program instruction?

The language of instruction is English.

Who will teach in the Transition ESL/English program?

Teachers who are certified in English or reading (or both) and who are certified or trained in methods of teaching English and other subject-area classes to students who are learning English as a second language.

How will the Transition ESL/English program meet the educational strengths and needs for your child?

Transition ESL/English is comprised of two language arts

Transition ESL

classes: (1) an ESL (English) class, which focuses on developing English writing and language (grammar) skills and (2) a reading class, which focuses on developing reading comprehension skills. “Sheltered” content-area classes are taught by specially designated teachers.

How will the Transition ESL/English program help your child learn English, yet meet academic achievement standards for grade promotion or graduation?

In middle school, the ESL reading classes will provide age-appropriate skills and concepts needed for grade promotion. In high school, the English classes will be counted as English credits needed for graduation. All other classes taken by the student will also count toward promotion and/or graduation. In-class and end-of-year assessments will determine overall progress. The campus Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) oversees each student’s progress to ensure overall academic achievement.

How long will your child stay in the Transition ESL/English program?

Students may exit from Transition ESL/English programs when they pass the state-required academic English test and score “fluent” on an English language proficiency test.

What is the expected rate of graduation from secondary school?

All students are expected to graduate from high school in four years after entering grade 9. Students may find it necessary to take advantage of special opportunities, including tutoring and summer school, in order to reach this goal.

How does the Transition ESL program, help students with special needs?

All FWISD programs operate within District guidelines to help identify and support students with special needs. An LPAC member is notified and attends all Admission/Review and Dismissal (ARD) meetings for each student with special needs. All available resources are utilized to assist these students.

Special Education and ESL teachers collaborate to support these students.

Newcomer ESL

What is the Newcomer program?

The program is designed for recent-arrival students in grades 6-12 who do not speak English. The program provides basic communicative and academic skills. In the event the program is not offered at your child's home school, transportation will be provided.

What methods of instruction will be used to teach in the Newcomer program?

The teachers focus on the development of English language skills and content-area knowledge. Students are taught more advanced English language skills. Teachers consistently provide support as students move through increasingly more rigorous concepts.

What are the instructional goals of the Newcomer program?

The overall goal is to foster English language development in all subject areas and to mainstream the student to ESL after the second year or as soon as the student reaches the advanced level of language proficiency. In secondary, the goal is to help students continue developing the social and academic English needed for success in school.

What is the language of instruction in the Newcomer Program?

The language of instruction is English.

Who will teach in the Newcomer Program?

Teachers who are certified in the subject areas they teach and who are certified and/or trained in methods of teaching English to students who are learning English as a second language will provide instruction.

How will the Newcomer program meet the educational strengths and needs for your child?

Teachers will implement a strong content-based curriculum customized to each level of language proficiency and academic level of the students.

Newcomer ESL

How will the Newcomer program help your child learn English, yet meet academic achievement standards for grade promotion or graduation?

Grade level instruction, specialized texts and materials are provided. In elementary, an additional ESL teacher pushes in to provide additional language and academic support at least 3-4 times per week. In middle school, the classes will provide skills and concepts for grade promotion. In high school, credit toward graduation is earned in ESL, speech, social studies, math, and science. All courses teach skills and concepts that will prepare students to move into regular classes and pass the state-required academic tests. The campus Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) oversees each student's progress to ensure overall academic achievement.

How long will your child stay in the Newcomer program?

Students generally remain in the program 1 to 2 years and then are transitioned to ESL or the regular English program, depending upon achievement level.

What is the expected rate of graduation from secondary school?

All students are expected to graduate from high school in four years after entering grade 9. Students may find it necessary to take advantage of special opportunities, including tutoring and summer school, in order to reach this goal.

How does the Newcomer program, help students with special needs?

All FWISD programs operate within District guidelines to help identify and support students with special needs. An LPAC member is notified and attends all Admission Review and Dismissal (ARD) meetings for each student with special needs. All available resources are utilized to assist these students. Special Education and ESL teachers collaborate to support these students.

International Newcomer Academy

What is the International Newcomer Academy (INA)?

The International Newcomer Academy is designed for recent arrival students in grades 6-9 who have been identified through assessment as non-English speaking. Transportation will be provided. 9th grade students must be age 15 or younger on September 1.

What methods of instruction will be used to teach at INA?

The methods used by teachers at INA are those which will help students understand, speak, read, and write basic English while they are learning concepts and skills in subjects such as math, social studies, and science.

What are the instructional goals of the program at INA?

The goal is to help develop the English language skills and content-area knowledge needed to successfully transition to a Newcomer program.

What is the language of instruction at INA?

The language of instruction is English.

Who will teach your child at INA?

Teachers who are certified in the subject areas they teach and who are certified or trained in methods of teaching English to students who are learning English as a second language will provide instruction.

How will the program at INA meet the educational strengths and needs for your child?

The program is focused solely on the needs of recent arrival students with emphasis on English-language development. Additionally, students who have special abilities, needs, and interest (i.e. are at an advanced level in math; need to learn basic literacy skills; have a particular talent in art, music, sports; etc.) are placed in special classes or groups for specialized instruction.

International Newcomer Academy

How will the program at INA help your child learn English, yet meet academic achievement standards for grade promotion or graduation?

The program is taught by teachers who accelerate the learning of English by providing intensive ESL classes and by focusing on both the language and the content of other courses so the student can learn both at the same time. Classes count toward grade promotion (or graduation if high school). Additionally, routine assessments are administered throughout the year to ensure growth and inform end-of-year decisions. The Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) oversees each student's progress to ensure overall academic achievement.

How long will your child stay at INA?

Most students remain in the program for two to four semesters. The two-semester period may be completed in May or in December, depending upon date of enrollment. When students complete INA, they go to a Newcomer or Success program (if applicable).

What is the expected rate of graduation from secondary school?

All students are expected to graduate from high school in four years after entering grade 9. Students may find it necessary to take advantage of special opportunities, including tutoring and summer school, in order to reach this goal.

Success

What is Success?

Success High School is designed for overage 9th-12th grade, ages 16-21 students. Success provides all courses needed for high school graduation. It also has a quarterly plan which allows students to earn credits in half the time required at other high schools. The “shortened” credit plan at Success is ideal for older students who do not have as much time to complete high school.

What methods of instruction will be used to teach at Success? The methods used at Success are those which help students expand their command of English while focusing on more sophisticated tasks and more mature subject matter. Students are taught in a class setting, in small groups, study skills guided and independent learning, and self-assessment provide the necessary support for the older student to reach personal education goals in an accelerated timeframe.

What are the instructional goals of the program at Success? The goal is to teach students the English language and subject-area skills/knowledge needed to earn a diploma and enroll in higher education programs and/or to secure employment.

What is the language of instruction at Success?
The language of instruction is English.

Who will teach your child at Success? Teachers who are certified in the subject areas they teach and who are certified or trained in methods of teaching English to students who are learning English as a second language will provide the instruction.

How will the program at Success meet the educational strengths and needs for your child? Success will meet the educational strengths and needs of the students by providing (1) varying levels of English courses, (2) a range of academic and elective courses, (3) a selection of

Success

individualized, computer-based courses, and (4) tutoring and other individualized help as needed. Additionally, students have opportunities to attend special summer courses in order to meet graduation standards.

How will the program at Success help your child learn English, yet meet academic achievement standards for graduation? Students at Success learn English while they are learning academic skills and concepts. Students are systematically assessed throughout the program to determine progress in English and academic subjects and identify changes which may be needed in instruction. The campus Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) oversees each student's progress to ensure overall academic achievement.

How long will your child stay at Success? Students may remain at Success for one year, complete high school graduation requirements, or until they reach the mandatory end-of-high-school age.

What is the expected rate of graduation from secondary school? All students are expected to graduate from high school in four years after entering grade 9. Students may find it necessary to take advantage of special opportunities, including tutoring and summer school, in order to reach this goal. Students who turn 21 before graduation will be referred to Adult Education or Tarrant County College.

How does Success help students with special needs? All FWISD programs operate within District guidelines to help identify and support students with special needs. An LPAC member is notified and attends all Admission/Review and Dismissal (ARD) meetings for each student with special needs. All available resources are utilized to assist such students.

Special Education and ESL teachers collaborate to support such students.

Required Testing

Students in DLI/ESL programs are required to take various achievement tests each school year. All emergent bilingual students take a test to assess their growth in English proficiency. This test is the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS).

Students also take the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests, as determined by program and/or grade level, to assess academic achievement level in subjects such as math, science, social studies, and language arts. Students in grades 9-12 must pass STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) tests.

Students are assessed in both languages when applicable and in the language they can demonstrate knowledge when appropriate.

STAAR Spanish

- Available for students in grades 3-5 for whom the Spanish version will most appropriately measure their academic progress and determined by the LPAC.

Grade	Test Subjects
3-8	Reading, Math
5	Science
8	Science, Social Studies
9-12	English I/II, Algebra, Biology, U.S. History

STAAR English

- Available for students in grades 3-8 and EOC

Emergent Bilingual Reclassification Criteria

At the end of the school year, the LPAC will recommend reclassification to exit from DLI/ESL program or continue participation, if in a DLI program. The student must meet the criteria below:

- Score Advanced High in each domain (listening, speaking, reading and writing) of TELPAS and;
- Perform satisfactory on the State Standardized English Reading Assessment and;
- A completed subjective teacher evaluation of the student's readiness for reclassification.

- Note:**
1. Students who received designated supports may not be considered for reclassification
 2. Parental approval for exit or continuation in program beyond reclassification must be obtained.

Summer School for EB Students

FWISD must provide summer school programs for EB students entering grades Kinder and 1st.

Instruction focuses on language development and knowledge and skills to prepare them to be successful in grades Kinder and 1st.

Enrollment is optional and parents must approve students to participate. If you are interested please complete a separate interest form.

The Multilingual Education Department also provides summer school enrichment programs for EB students in grades 2-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Information about all programs are available at the campus or at the SPC in the Spring of each year.

Parent Acknowledgment Form

Please read the information in this booklet carefully; then sign the form below.

- I have received, read, and understand the *Fort Worth ISD Dual Language Immersion and English as a Second Language Programs* booklet.
- I understand that if my child is placed in a Dual Language program, in order to become bilingual and biliterate, my child will be taught in English and Spanish daily in grades PK–5.

Student's Last, First Name Program Sch.

Student's Last, First Name Program Sch.

Student's Last, First Name Program Sch.

Student's Last, First Name Program Sch.

Student's Last, First Name Program Sch.

Student's Last, First Name Program Sch.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature Date

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Student's Last, First Name Program Sch.

Student's Last, First Name Program Sch.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature Date

The Fort Worth Independent School District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any employee on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity and expression, military/veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of District policy. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Patricia Sutton, Director of Special Services, 100 N University Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76107, 817.814.2458, Email: patricia.sutton@fwisd.org, or Rodney Wadley, Director of Title IX, 100 N. University Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76107, 817.814.1830, Email: TitleIX@fwisd.org

