

Every Single Student, Every Single Day.

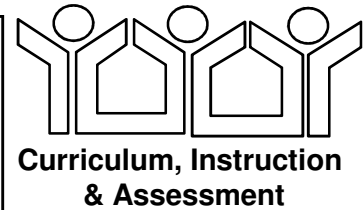
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Department of English to Speakers of Other Languages

Fox Lane Campus

Mount Kisco, New York 10549

www.bcsdny.org



**Bilingual Instruction Study Committee
Prospectus**

...it takes an average of six years to reach grade-level achievement in second language when starting at the 8th percentile, and that can only be achieved in programs that provide nonstop cognitive, academic, and linguistic support to allow students to accelerate their growth by an average one and one-half years per year for six years in a row.

(Collier and Thomas, 2009)

The Department of English to Speakers of Other Languages, in conjunction with Mount Kisco Elementary School and the Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, invites members of the Bedford Central School District to apply for participation in the Bilingual Instruction Study Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to conduct an intensive study of dual language models of instruction with the ultimate charge of reporting its findings to the larger professional learning community and developing a recommendation and long-range plan of bilingual instruction for adoption in 2013-14. Committee members will deepen their knowledge of bilingual instruction through a range of activities such as a review of current literature, dialogue with experts, visits to area programs, and attendance at relevant conferences. The outcomes of the Committee's work will not only benefit English language learners but also will have significant implications for the MKES community and the District.

The formation and work of the Committee is BCSD's response to external and internal forces:

- The percentage of students with limited English proficiency at MKES is approaching 25% of the total student body.
- Latino students at MKES comprise more than 50% of the total student population.
- The Commissioner's Regulations Part 154 which governs instruction for English language learners requires that schools provide bilingual instruction to LEP students when the number of LEP students who share the same first language number 20 or more at a single grade level.
- For the past three years, the number of Spanish-speaking LEP incoming kindergartners has exceeded 25 students; at least 40 Spanish-speaking LEP kindergartners will begin the 2012-13 school year at MKES.
- Last year there were 19 Spanish-speaking LEP kindergartners at BHES; this year BHES anticipates at least 20 Spanish-speaking LEP students in kindergarten.

Currently Spanish-speaking ELLs in kindergarten, first and second grades receive one unit of Spanish language instruction daily at MKES. This year, the bilingual elementary teachers will also provide math instruction in Spanish through the implementation of the newly adopted district program "Math in

Focus.” The present delivery model is a pilot and short-term response to the changing demographic and current mandates.

We are seeking a diverse range of applicants for Committee membership to ensure the representation of multiple stakeholders throughout the school district and the larger community:

- ESOL faculty
- Bilingual faculty
- Secondary-level native language arts faculty
- Elementary faculty (classroom teachers, specialists, special area teachers)
- Pre-school faculty
- Clinicians
- MKESA
- Parents of LEP students
- BOE members
- Building and district leaders
- Community members/service providers

Committee members are expected to participate in virtually all meetings and work sessions. Additionally, select members will participate in activities such as site visits and conferences, reporting new learning to the larger group.

On March 20, 2013, the Committee is scheduled to report its findings, learning, and recommendations to the Board of Education:

Monday, September 24	3:45 – 5:15
Tuesday, October 2	12:00 – 3:30
Thursday, October 25	3:45 – 5:15
Tuesday, November 27	7:00 – 9:00
Monday, December 17	3:45 – 5:15
Monday, January 14	12:00 – 3:30
Thursday, January 31	3:45 – 5:15
Monday, February 25	3:45 – 5:15
Monday, March 11	12:00 – 5:15

Applications will be reviewed by Adrienne Viscardi, Sue Ostrofsky, and Drew Patrick with the goal of selecting 18-22 members. Those interested in the work of the Committee who are either not selected or are unable to participate due to the time commitment will have additional opportunities during the year to learn about the ongoing work, ask questions, and provide feedback.

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