

## Benefits of a Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Education

Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Programs have proven effective for a wide variety of students. Research studies indicate that dual language yields the following benefits for ALL students.

- Enhanced levels of knowledge of how language works which has proven to be important to reading acquisition
- Improved performance over monolingual students on tasks that call for divergent thinking, pattern recognition and problem solving
- Additional knowledge and understanding of one's native language
- Greater understanding, tolerance, appreciation and respect for other languages and cultures
- Ability to communicate with other ethnic and cultural groups
- Enhanced employment opportunities once school is completed.

*"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."*

**--Frank Smith**

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For more information about Dual Language Immersion Programs, please visit our website:

<https://www.wacoisd.org/domain/3624>



## Waco ISD Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Program

**English Learners Department**

Waco ISD

<https://www.wacoisd.org/domain/3624>

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# What is a Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Program?

Two-Way Dual Language Immersion is an educational approach in which students learn two languages in an instructional setting that integrates subject content presented in English and another language. Models vary depending on the amount of each language used for instruction at each grade level. The program must be based on instruction that adds to the student's first language.

Two-Way Dual Language Immersion is a biliteracy program model that integrates students proficient in English and students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP). Waco ISD's model provides instruction in both English and Spanish. Instruction is provided to both native English speakers and native speakers of Spanish in an instructional setting where language learning is integrated with content instruction. Core academic content is taught to students through English and Spanish. Program exit will occur no earlier than six years or later than seven years after the student enrolls in school.

The primary goals of a Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Program model are:

- The development of fluency and literacy in English and Spanish for all students.
- The integration of English proficient students and Emergent Bilinguals for academic instruction, in accordance with the program design.
- Whenever possible, 50% of the students in the program should be dominant English speakers and 50% of the students should be native speakers of the other language (Spanish) at the beginning of the program.
- The promotion of bilingualism, biliteracy, and cross-cultural awareness.
- High levels of academic achievement for both English proficient and Emergent Bilingual students.

# Pilot Program Enrollment and Entrance Criteria Procedures:

1. During the pilot years of Waco ISD's Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Program, only one campus within the district, Brook Avenue Elementary, will offer the program. This is to ensure that we are providing a quality language program to our LEP and non-LEP students.
2. Priority will be given to students who live in Brook Avenue's school zone and have siblings in the school.
3. Students must meet the criteria for Emergent Bilinguals/Spanish Speakers or Non-LEP/English Speakers.
4. Enrollment in Waco ISD's Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Program is optional. Parents interested in enrolling their child in the program should initially register at their home campus during PK Round-Up and notify the home campus or Language Assessment Proficiency Committee (LPAC) contact of their interest in the program.
5. Parent preference for the Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Program for the 2023-2024 school-year may be indicated in early spring of the current school year during PK Round-Up or at campus registration prior to the upcoming school year.



*“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”*

--Nelson Mandela

## Top 10 Reasons for Participating in a Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Program

1. To acquire a second language
2. To have a greater capacity for listening
3. To think more creatively and analytically
4. To develop better communication skills
5. To express enthusiasm and have an aptitude for problem solving
6. To have greater awareness of self and others
7. To gain insights into other cultures
8. To unify staff and students in creating a shared linguistic community
9. To provide access to a greater part of the world
10. To take advantage of the optimal time to learn a language and develop an appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures, peoples, and perspectives in the world