



Merced City School District State and Federal Programs

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In the Fall of 2024, a Merced City School District Dual Language Immersion (MCSD DLI) Planning Team was developed that included MCSD teachers and administrators. Conversations with DELAC committee members, certificated and classified bargaining teams, and community members took place. The DLI Planning Team visited Atwater and Los Banos' DLI programs. The Planning Team, this time joined by representatives of our bargaining partners and an MCSD DELAC representative, also visited Fresno Unified's DLI program at Leavenworth Elementary. The purpose of the visits to other DLI programs was to observe the program in practice and to speak with staff so that MCSD could learn key elements of a successful program. In October 2024, MCSD conducted DLI Listening Sessions to hear from our community.

This MCSD DLI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document reflects the questions the MCSD DLI Team has received to date. If you have questions that are not listed, please leave your questions at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfaNJXLkWL62pB5v6XDkkTA_vA5WjHw-KtLqn5EtThPDQAV7Q/viewform

MCSD Dual Language Immersion Frequently Asked Questions

as of November 7, 2024, subject to change

Assessment	
Will DLI program students take the State Assessments in English or Spanish?	DLI program students, in grades 3rd-6th, will take the State Assessments in English. In future years, the State may require students participating in DLI programs to take a standardized assessment in Spanish.
Communication	
Who has the District collaborated with to design its DLI program? How does the District plan to communicate the program's implementation progress?	The MCSD DLI Planning Team collaborated with Atwater Elementary School District, Los Banos Elementary School District, and Fresno Unified School District, and has hired a consultant from Two-Way & Dual Language Education (ATDLE) in order to ensure MCSD develops an exemplary DLI Program. MCSD will send communications through ParentSquare to all parents and lead them to our district website where updates will be posted.
Where can I provide my input for the MCSD DLI Program?	Please use this hyperlink (click here) to provide your feedback.
What is Dual-Language Immersion (DLI)?	Dual Language Immersion (DLI) is a language acquisition program that provides integrated language learning and academic instruction for native speakers of English and native speakers of another language, with the goals of high academic achievement, first and second language proficiency, and cross-cultural understanding. Education Code Section 306(c)(1). Source: Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program , California Department of Education
How are we reaching out to those parents who are kinder parents, interested in DLI but are not yet in school	MCSD will set up opportunities to promote the program to preschool and transitional kindergarten families.

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setting to get this information?	
What will be the differences between a non-DLI class and a DLI class?	The difference between a non-DLI class and a DLI class is what language is being used for teaching and learning. Other components such as curriculum, assessments, instructional and behavioral supports, length of the school day, academic excursions, and all bell schedules remain the same.
Why Dual Language Immersion?	Dual Language Immersion (DLI) is a language acquisition program that provides integrated language learning and academic instruction for native speakers of English and native speakers of another language, with the goals of high academic achievement, first and second language proficiency, and cross-cultural understanding. "Two-way bilingual Immersion programs provide all students with the opportunity to develop the bi/multi-lingual, cognitive, academic, and socio-cultural competencies that will enable them to thrive in the 21st century" (Lindholm-Leary, 2020). Retrieved from https://atdle.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/lindholmleary2020_current-research-twbi-3.pdf on November 4, 2024.
Program Design	
Will the DLI program be available for all grade levels?	Yes, eventually. MCSD will add one grade level each year to the DLI program. The goal is to have the program in grades K-8.
What will the language level balance of the class be?	The District is exploring several balance models. One model would have 50% of the students being native speakers of English and 50% of the class being native speakers of another language.
What is the language model being used with regard to the use of English and Spanish?	MCSD would begin DLI programming in Kindergarten (K). In K, students would receive 90% of their instruction in Spanish and 10% in English. This is commonly referred to as the 90/10 model. The percentage of Spanish would decrease grade-to-grade by 10% and increase the English instruction percentage by 10% until equal amounts of time (50/50) are spent being taught in both languages. The 50/50 time would begin in the fourth grade. This 50/50 equilibrium would continue through the 6th grade in MCSD. In 7th and 8th grade, the minutes of instruction in Spanish would reflect the amount of time for Spanish Language Arts and History/Social Studies (in Spanish).
What language will the DLI program use besides English?	The DLI program will be utilizing Castillian Spanish.
Enrollment	
Are students eligible for special	Yes. The student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) will

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education services in the DLI program?	determine if the student remains in the DLI program or is in a non-DLI classroom.
I have 3 children in grades K-6. My Kindergarten student is provided the opportunity to attend the DLI program at another school site. Can my other two children move to the same school?	Siblings of students provided the opportunity to attend the DLI program at another school will receive priority "School of Choice" status. Please keep in mind that "School of Choice" approvals are based on available spots in respective grades at the receiving school.
What school site will have the DLI program? Will I be able to submit a "School of Choice" application for the DLI program if my child's school of residency does not currently have a program?	The District is still evaluating which school site(s) will be designated for the DLI program. Parents will be able to submit a "School of Choice" application to attend the school if the school site(s) have availability based on the language level balance.
If the school site is not my school district, will my child still be able to join?	MCSD students will receive priority enrollment before inter-district transfer applications are considered.
Programming	
What is the latest grade level a student can begin the DLI Program? Can a student begin the program during the school year?	The latest a student can begin the DLI program would be Kindergarten based on the needed time to be fully immersed and acquire a second language. A Kindergarten student can enroll in the program throughout the year based on administrator discretion and program availability.
When is the DLI program slated to begin?	The MCSD DLI program is expected to begin during the 2025-2026 school year at a very small scale.
What does a typical day look like in the program?	A typical day in a DLI program is the same as any other classroom at that specific grade level. The only difference would be that instruction would be provided in Spanish for a portion of the day. Depending on the grade level, there would be more Spanish than English instruction. The MCSD DLI Task Force will work on specific recommendations pertaining to what content areas of instruction the languages would adjust.
What does ELD/SLD look like?	Designated English Language Development (D-ELD) and Designated Spanish Language Development (D-SLD) will be a protected 30-minute block of instruction to support the basic language structures of English, for our native Spanish speakers, and Spanish, for our native English speakers.
What requirements are required to teach and support a DLI class?	DLI teachers must possess a Multiple Subject Credential and bilingual authorization. Instructional aides must be bilingual.
Why is the District beginning the DLI program in Kindergarten instead of	The District is beginning the DLI program in Kindergarten due to the rates of low enrollment in TK.

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Transitional Kindergarten (TK)?	
Transportation	
Will transportation be provided to a student in the DLI program and their siblings who apply for and receive a "School of Choice" to attend the same school?	No, students attending a DLI program outside of their school residency area will not be provided transportation.