



Middle School Dual Language Expansion and Bessie Rhodes K-8 Tentative Transition Plan

April 8, 2024



EVANSTON/SKOKIE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 65

Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it Takes

Agenda



- Background
- Middle School Dual Language Expansion
 - Tentative Transition for Bessie Rhodes 6-8 grade students
- Tentative Transition Plan for Bessie Rhodes K-5 Students
- Operational Aspects for Supporting a Smooth Transition
- Next Steps & Timeline

Mission & Vision for Dual Language Programming



VISION

Evanston/Skokie School District 65 Dual Language program embraces rigorous academic practices that *develop high levels of linguistic and academic proficiency in two languages* while simultaneously *fostering positive sociocultural attitudes and behaviors.*

MISSION

In keeping with Evanston/Skokie School District 65's commitments to Culturally Relevant Teaching and Equity, the Dual Language program aims to *center Spanish speaking English Language Learners as we work together as a community, inspire creativity and prepare each student to achieve academically, grow personally and contribute positively to a global society by becoming fully bilingual, biliterate, and multicultural.*





Background

How did we get here?



Commitment to expanding services through Middle School Dual Language Programming Implementation

- *Since 2017*, commitment to providing full continuum of services preK-8
- Beginning in sixth grade at Bessie Rhodes in 2024-2025
- Focus on serving our Spanish-speaking English Language Learners

Student Assignment Planning (what we learned in SAP I and II in 2021-2023)

- Multi-year comprehensive planning process which began in 2021
- Community focus on walkable neighborhood schools
- Recommendation to close the physical building of Bessie Rhodes and transition to the new 5th Ward school

Impact of 5th Ward School Design Shifting to K-5 (Opening 2026-2027)

- “School within a school model” not logistically or financially feasible
- Need to ensure a strong transition plan for Bessie Rhodes community and maintaining commitment to expansion of dual language programming

Guiding Assumptions for Implementation Planning



1

The Middle School Dual Language program is starting at Bessie Rhodes in 2024 for 6th grade

2

Student Assignment Plan recommendations will be used to guide the Dual Language Expansion Plan

3

The anticipated opening of the 5th Ward School in Fall 2026

4

Enrollment and demand will influence the number and location of Middle School Dual Language sites

5

The Dual Language Implementation plan must be flexible to respond to the variables in the first 4 assumptions



Middle School Dual Language Expansion

*Transition Plan for Bessie Rhodes 6-8 Students
(should the decision be made to close the building)*

Criteria for Middle School Dual Language Implementation



Centering the needs of English Language (EL) Learners

- Alignment with best practices and research
- Legal requirements for EL

Alignment with SAP I and II

- Prioritizing walkability and neighborhood schools
- Align with community feedback and approved 2022 Student Assignment Plan to the greatest extent possible

Data-driven decision making

- Enrollment projections
- Master facility plan
- Financial accountability

**Our commitment is to have a middle school dual language program;
*the focus has shifted to the location(s) of the program given the redesign of the 5th Ward School***

Process for Determining Implementation Plan



Multiple options were considered for programming location (if Bessie Rhodes closes)



Location

- 6th-8th grade Dual Language remains at Rhodes
- 6th-8th Dual Language moves to another middle school if Rhodes building closes
- K-8 TWI wall-to-wall moves to another building



Time Frame

Considered implementation timelines between 4 years to 9 years



Order

The sequence of expansion



Enrollment, Space, and Feasibility

6-Year Dual Language Middle School Expansion Plan



2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030
Bessie Rhodes 6th Grade Dual Language		Stand-alone Middle School #2 6th Grade Dual Language	Stand- alone Middle School #3 6th Grade Dual Language		
	Bessie Rhodes 6th- 7th Grade Dual Language	5TH WARD SCHOOL OPENS!	Stand-alone Middle School #2 6th - 7th Grade Dual Language	Stand- alone Middle School #3 6th - 7th Grade Dual Language	
		Haven* 6th-8th Grade Dual Language		Stand-alone Middle School #2 6th -8th Grade Dual Language	Stand- alone Middle School #3 6th - 8th Grade Dual Language

Haven Program



Building #2 Program



Building #3 Program



*Pending the outcome of the Rhodes building closure hearings.
SAP III will recommend the next middle school location for the dual language program (building expansion based on enrollment and demand).

Student Assignment Planning (SAP)



SAP I

Student Attendance Areas 2021-2022

A systems and process review to establish timelines, define and set goals, and use data analytics to make recommendations

- Opening a 5th Ward school
- Transition of Rhodes building
- King Arts to remain K-8 magnet
- Revising elementary boundaries

SAP II

Program Placement 2022-2023

Determining placement for multiple D65 programs (ACC, TWI, RISE, STEP, Rice, Park)

- Placing students in programs located closest to where they live
- Formalizing priorities from SAP I to set the stage for SAP III

SAP III

Implementation Plan 2024 - on-going

Utilizing data gathered from SAP I and II, Master Facility Plan, and enrollment data and trends

- School consolidation(s) based on financial and enrollment projections and updated demographic information
- Equity and financial review of D65 programs in terms of quantity, access, and placement

Considerations: Selection of Dual Language Program Location



SAP Background

Since 1966, D65's Student Assignment Process has focused on maintaining racially balanced schools by enacting forced busing patterns, adding programs, and allowing permissive transfers.

In 2021, a new Student Assignment Process involved:

- A transparent, public, participatory process
 - SAP committees with wide community representation
 - Multiple Community Input Sessions and a community survey
- *With a goal of providing recommendations to use as guides in decision making around school, program, and attendance boundary changes.*

Considerations: Selection of Dual Language Program Location



SAP Background (continued)

Two key recommendations from SAP I and SAP II:

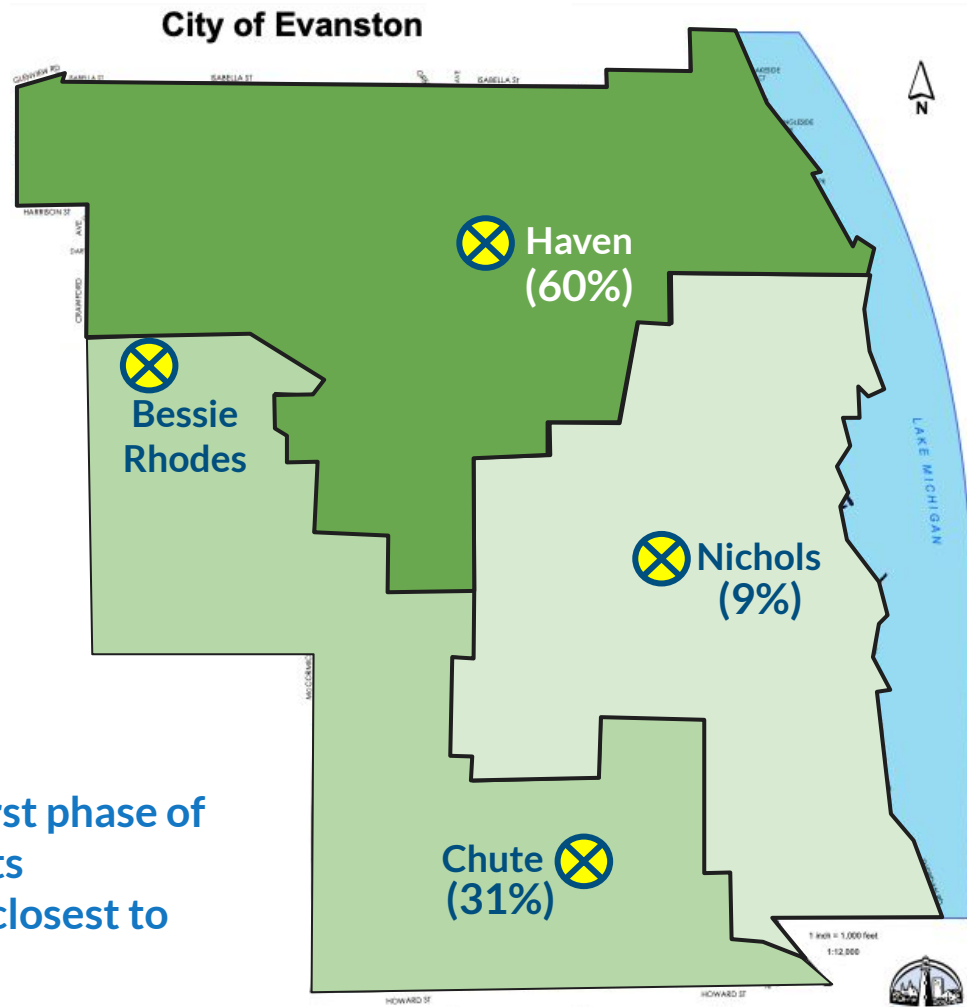
1. Prioritize Neighborhood Schools & Walkability
 - *In contrast to the former priority for diverse schools*
2. Placing programs in the closest proximity to where students live
 - *Addresses equity and fiscal responsibility*

Why Haven?

A majority (60%) of current Bessie Rhodes Spanish EL students (K-5) live in Haven's attendance boundary (2023-2024 data)

School	BRGS EL Spanish Students	% of BRGS EL Spanish Students
Haven	61	60%
Chute	31	31%
Nichols	9	9%
TOTAL	101	100%

By offering programming at Haven as our first phase of middle school expansion, D65 best honors its commitment to provide services in schools closest to where students live.





Transition Plan for Bessie Rhodes K-5 Students

Definitions



TWE: Two-Way English; student who is in the dual language program and is a native English speaker

TWS: Two-Way Spanish; student who is in the dual language program and is a native Spanish speaker

TWX: Two-Way Exited; student who is/was in the dual language program and is a native Spanish speaker and scored enough on the ACCESS test to be labeled a proficient English speaker

TWI: Two-Way Immersion; District 65 refers to their Spanish/English bilingual dual language program as “TWI”

Home School (i.e. Neighborhood School): the school a student is assigned to based on attendance boundary

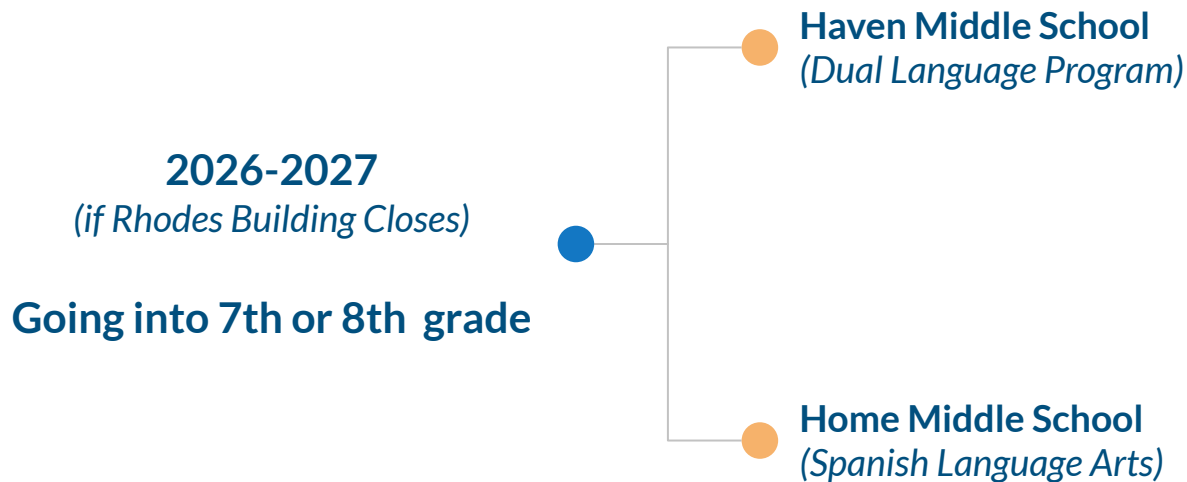
SY25 2024-2025	SY26 2025-26	SY27 2026-27	SY28 2027-28	SY29 2028-29	SY30 2029-30
Bessie Rhodes 6th Grade Dual Language		Stand-alone Middle School #2 6th Grade Dual Language	Stand-alone Middle School #3 6th Grade Dual Language		
	Bessie Rhodes 7th Grade Dual Language		Stand-alone Middle School #2 6th - 7th Grade Dual Language	Stand-alone Middle School #3 6th - 7th Grade Dual Language	
		Haven* 6th-8th Grade Dual Language		Stand-alone Middle School #2 6th - 8th Grade Dual Language	Stand-alone Middle School #3 6th - 8th Grade Dual Language

At-a-Glance Transitions for Bessie Rhodes Families

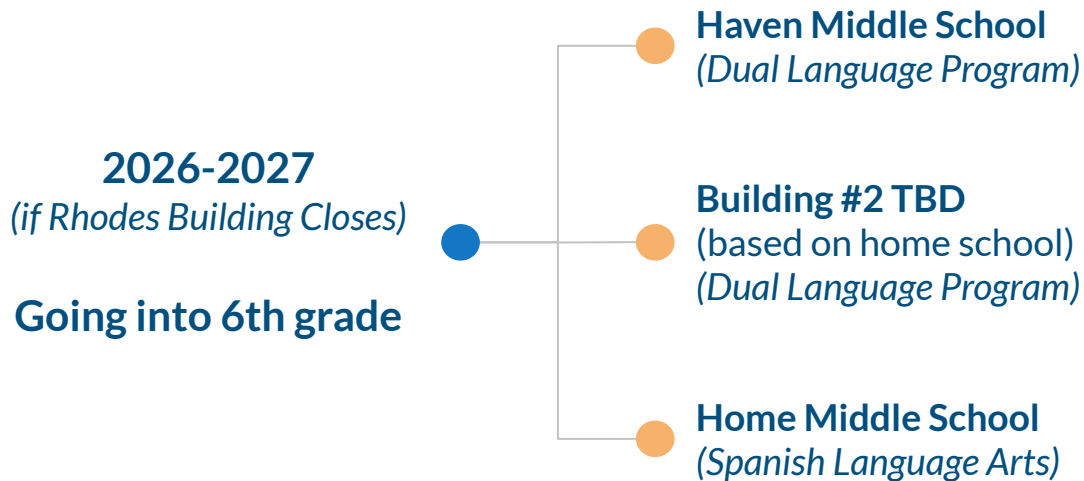


This year (2023-2024), my child is <u>currently</u> in:	In 2024-2025 and 2025-2026, my child can still attend:	If Bessie Rhodes building closes in 2026-2027 (+3 years), <u>what are my child's options?</u>
6th or 7th grade	Bessie Rhodes Evanston Township High School (ETHS)	Evanston Township High School (ETHS)
5th grade	Bessie Rhodes	Haven - Dual Language OR Home School with Spanish Language Arts (SLA option)*
4th grade	Bessie Rhodes	Haven - Dual Language OR Home School with SLA option
3rd grade	Bessie Rhodes	Haven OR Dual Language Building #2 OR Home School with SLA option
2nd grade	Bessie Rhodes	5th Ward School - TWI OR Home School
1st grade	Bessie Rhodes	5th Ward School - TWI OR Home School
Kindergarten	Bessie Rhodes	5th Ward School - TWI OR Home School

My child is currently a 4th or 5th Grader at Bessie Rhodes...

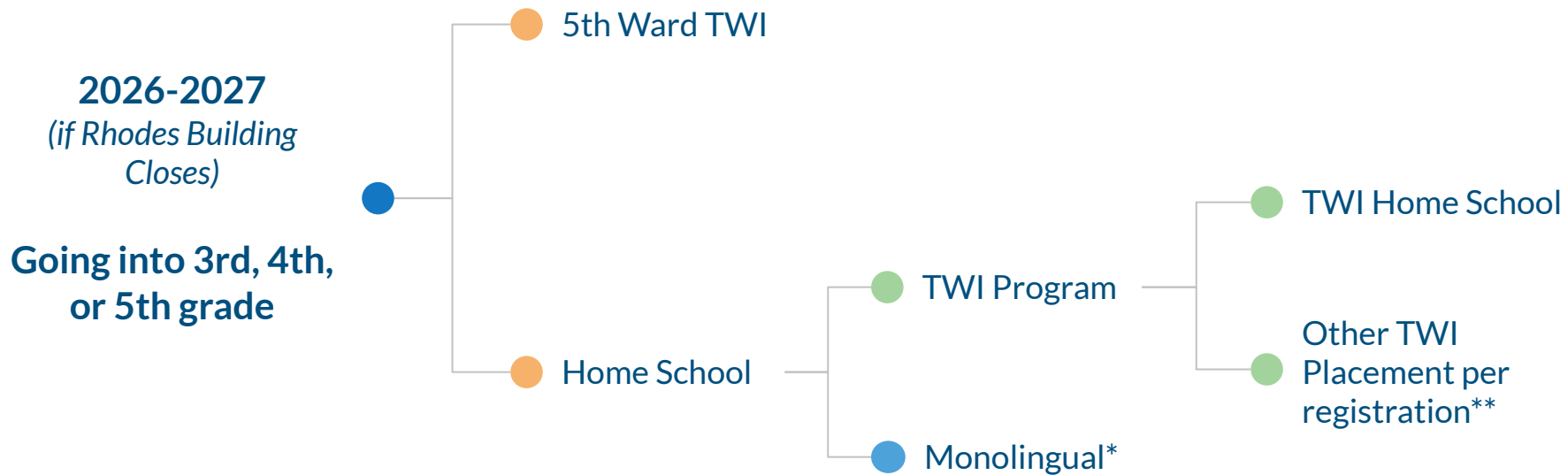


My child is currently a 3rd Grader at Bessie Rhodes...



*SAP Phase III will determine next stand-alone middle school based on enrollment and demand.

My child is currently in kindergarten, 1st grade, or 2nd grade at Bessie Rhodes...



*If a student moves to the monolingual program from TWI, they may re-enter the Dual Language program if they demonstrate Spanish language proficiency through a language assessment

**Based on board policy placement is determined by the Registration Department.



Operational Aspects to Support a Smooth Transition

Registration/Program Selection for 6th Grade Dual Language Program at Bessie Rhodes



Deadline for applying to Bessie Rhodes Dual Language (6th grade): April 26, 2024

Current TWS or TWX
Bessie Rhodes
5th Grade Student

Current TWE
Bessie Rhodes
5th Grade Student

Complete the District-wide
Registration Process for 6th Grade*

5th grade students at
Bessie Rhodes are
accepted automatically
into the 6th grade dual
language program.

Students who are designated as a Spanish speaking English Language Learner (TWS or TWX) who apply for dual language will be prioritized and accepted into the program. Remaining seats will be allocated by lottery to native English speaking (TWE) TWI students districtwide.

*All students entering 6th grade must complete this process regardless of the school they are attending.

Registration/Program Selection for 6th Grade Dual Language Program at Bessie Rhodes



Deadline for applying to Bessie Rhodes Dual Language (6th grade): April 26, 2024

TWS or TWX Districtwide
5th Grade TWI Student

TWE
Districtwide
5th Grade TWI Student

Complete the District-wide
Registration Process for 6th Grade*

1. On the registration form, select YES for “I am interested in applying for a magnet school or selective enrollment program.”
2. Select “Dr. Bessie Rhodes” and answer the required question.

Students who are designated as a Spanish speaking English Language Learner (TWS or TWX) who apply for dual language will be prioritized and accepted into the program. Remaining seats will be allocated by lottery to native English speaking (TWE) TWI students districtwide.

*All students entering 6th grade must complete this process regardless of the school they are attending.



Process to Request to Attend a Home School

(Rhodes **5th Grade TWI Student** Currently Not Enrolled in Home School)



Home school is determined by location of student residence and position in school enrollment area



TWS or TWX Students Returning to Home School: Students will be placed at their home school middle school. They will be placed in a Spanish Language Arts class and receive ESL supports (TWS only)

TWE Students: Students will be placed at their home school middle school. They will be placed in a Spanish Language Arts class if they elect to continue with Spanish course work

Process to Request to Attend a Home School

(Rhodes **TWI K-4th or 6-7th student** Currently Not Enrolled in Home School)



Home school is determined by location of student residence and position in school enrollment area

**K-4th, 6th-7th Grade Student
Returning to Home School**

Request to Return to Home School

After submitting the required registration form, submit the online form: [Request to Attend a Home School](#)

Request to Home School Deadline: Complete as soon as possible. Requests are granted based on school and grade level capacity.

TWS or TWX Students Returning to Home School: Students will be placed into the [TWI program at their home school](#) when available or the [TWI program closest to their home school](#).

TWE Students: Students will be placed into the [TWI program at their home school](#) (pending space availability) or [monolingual class at the home school](#) (pending space availability). If the home school does not have a TWI program, the family needs to [apply for TWI through the selective enrollment application](#).

Resources for Registration



Required Registration for 6th Grade

Please refer to an email from the District on February 5 or go to this [webpage](#) to learn more.

Apply for the Dual Language Program for 6th Grades at Bessie Rhodes

Please go to this [webpage](#) to get apply for the program.

MARCH

22

March 22, 2024 (*deadline passed*)

Deadline for all general selective enrollment programs
(ie. King Arts, ACC, new TWI students).

APRIL

26

April 26, 2024

Extended deadline for Dr. Bessie Rhodes Dual Language
6th grade program (Current TWI 5th graders only).

Potential Staffing Impact if the Rhodes Building Closes



- Commitment to working closely with leaders representing all five bargaining units to *fully explore and collaborate* around the impact on all Bessie Rhodes staff (educators, paraprofessionals, custodians, administrative assistants, health services, childcare, etc)
- Pending the decision to close the Bessie Rhodes building, timelines for staffing-related decisions will be *in accordance with contractual guidelines* as it relates to the transition of our staff.
 - By the 2026-2027 school year, the District will engage in contract negotiations with the District Educators Council (DEC), Evanston Teacher Assistants Association (ETAA), and the Evanston Custodial Maintenance Association (ECMA).



LEGAL REQUIREMENT

- Transportation is required as an option if a student lives more than 1.5 miles from their assigned school or there is a designated hazard route
- Since D65 has TPI or TBE services available at ALL schools, we do not need to provide transportation to TWS students unless we assign them to a school more than 1.5 miles from their home

CURRENT PRACTICE

- Based on our equity lens we are currently providing transportation for TWS/X families that elect or are placed at Bessie Rhodes
- TWE students are charged for transportation services if requested, unless the student is eligible for a fee waiver
- We will continue with our current practice until dual language is expanded to other middle schools



What's Next

Multilingual Considerations for SAP Phase III



- Recommendation for the 2nd Dual Language program location
- Attention to supporting students and families through all aspects of transitions
- Other authentic questions as they emerge

**SY27
2026-27**

**Stand-alone
Middle School #2
6th Grade
Dual Language**

Build Community With Us!



Welcoming new students to Bessie Rhodes



Incoming 6th grade Dual Language students are welcome to join the Rhodes community for their **International Night on May 17th.**



Principal Charlise Berkel

Charlise Berkel is the daughter of multilingual Dutch Caribbean immigrants and is bilingual in Spanish. Principal Berkel holds three Master's Degrees in Education (Elementary Education, Reading and Literacy and School Leadership) and is certified in Montessori Education.

In recent years she has served as Multilingual Coordinator (TWI) in the district's Multilingual Department, supporting the adoption of a Spanish/English dual Language Arts curriculum in two-way immersion classrooms in six buildings district-wide.

Ms. Berkel's knowledge of literacy, biliteracy, content area instruction and pedagogy is expansive, with more than twenty years of teaching and coaching experience spanning preschool, elementary and middle school levels, across private, parochial, charter and public school contexts.

Build Community With Us!



Preparing for a transition to Haven Middle School



Join the Haven's Open House events to learn more about the curriculum, culture & climate and extracurriculars for Haven students on **May 14th or 16th**. Spanish-Rising 6th Grade Orientation on May 15 (En español).



*Principal Christopher
Latting*

Christopher Latting is looking forward to adding the Dual Language program to the Haven community. He is bilingual in Spanish and identifies as Afro-Latino with family roots in Puerto Rico. He holds two Master's degrees (Teaching and School Leadership), is working on his Doctorate in Education and has been honored by Golden Apple as a Leader of Distinction.

Before joining D65, Principal Latting has been both a principal and assistant principal in school buildings with bilingual education programs for native Spanish speakers. Throughout his teaching career, he has focused on supporting Spanish speaking students and families to access a high quality education. As a current adjunct professor at National Louis University, Mr. Latting is helping to train future teachers in his passion for equitable education that focuses on centering students in high quality teaching and learning.

What's Next



Date	Activity
April 8, 2024	Presentation of Bessie Rhodes Transition Plan (including expansion of middle school dual language program)
April 13, 2024	TWI Community Conversation at Bessie Rhodes; the registration department will be providing registration support on site
April 22, 2024	Presentation of Bessie Rhodes Transition Plan (<i>including expansion of middle school dual language program</i>) Bessie Rhodes Public Hearing #1
April 26, 2024	Selective Enrollment Application Closes (middle school dual language), this is a Friday
May 6, 2024	Bessie Rhodes Public Hearing #2
May 14, 15, 16, 2024	Haven Middle School 6th Grade Open House. May 15th will be offered in Spanish
May 17, 2024	Bessie Rhodes International Night
May 20, 2024	Bessie Rhodes Public Hearing #3
June 10, 2024*	Action on Resolution for School Building Closing Action on Resolution for Bessie Rhodes Programming
August 22, 2024	First Day of School for Students (K-8) & D65's first Dual Language Middle School program!

*If the Board ultimately approves the closure of Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies building, the earliest the school closure will go into effect is after the 2025-2026 school year. The school will remain fully operational and supported through the closure date. Please note this timeline is not inclusive of all communication and engagement activities.

TWI

Charla comunitaria

Sábado 13 de abril

10:30 AM - MEDIO DÍA

Escuela de Estudios Globales Dra. Bessie Rhodes
3701 Davis Street, Skokie

Acompañe al Distrito 65 el 13 de abril en una charla comunitaria enfocada en la expansión del programa del lenguaje dual para la escuela secundaria así como para hablar de nuestro plan tentativo de transición y de las opciones para estudiantes K-8 en Bessie Rhodes. Los temas y actividades incluirán:

- Cronograma para la implementación de nuestro nuevo programa de lenguaje dual.
- Resumen de planes tentativos de transición -para estudiantes K-8 de Bessie Rhodes
- Galería de imágenes para compartir el modelo del programa de lenguaje dual, cronograma, transición y oportunidades para la comunidad en el edificio.
- Facilitación de círculos para compartir para las familias de Bessie Rhodes
- Proceso de inscripción de estudiantes y apoyo

Habrá interpretación en español, bocadillos y cuidado de niños.

TWI

Community Conversation

Saturday, April 13

10:30 AM - NOON

Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies
3701 Davis Street, Skokie

Join District 65 on April 13 for a community conversation focused on the middle school dual language program expansion as well as our tentative transition plan and options for K-8 students at Bessie Rhodes. Topics and activities will include:

- Timeline for implementation of our new dual language program
- At-A-Glance tentative transition plans for K-8 Bessie Rhodes students
- Gallery Walk to share dual language program model, timeline, transition, and community building opportunities
- Facilitated sharing circles for Bessie Rhodes families
- Student registration process and support

Spanish interpretation, light refreshments, and childcare will be provided.



Appendix

Research



Collier, V.P., & Thomas, W.P. (2019, Fall). The role of bilingualism in improving literacy achievement. *Literacy Leadership Brief*. Newark, DE: International Literacy Association. [PDF](#)

Collier, V.P. & Thomas, W.P. (2023, October 06). *Why dual language works for everyone*. Language Magazine. <https://www.languagemagazine.com/2023/10/06/why-dual-language-works-for-everyone/#:~:text=Extending%20DL%20to%20Secondary&text=Proficient%20bilinguals%20usually%20outscore%20monolinguals,as%20one%20or%20two%20grades>

Howard, E. R., Lindholm-Leary, K. J., Rogers, D., Olague, N., Medina, J., Kennedy, B., Sugarman, J., & Christian, D. (2018). *Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education* (3rd ed.). Washington, DC: Center for Applied Linguistics.

Medina, J. (2017, November 28). ¿Qué You don't know the 3 pillars of dual language? Dual Language Organization. <https://duallanguageschools.org/column/3-pillars-dual-language/>

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN DUAL-IMMERSION PROGRAMS Maria Arellano Valdez May 2021, California State University, Stanislaus, [PDF](#)

Options for TWE Middle School Electives



If a TWE 5th grade student elects not to enroll in a Middle School Dual Language program, these are their options:

Spanish Language Arts

Open to all former TWE students but required for Spanish speaking ELs

OR

Advisory

OR

AVID

OR

Foreign Language





LATEST NEWS



African-American Youth Achievement Awards Honor 33 D65 Students

Students were recognized in a ceremony on February 8, 2024, for their daily actions that pay homage to the visions and legacy of African-American pioneers. Through initiative and perseverance, each awardee has excelled in character, civility, community service, leadership, scholarship, or sportsmanship.



Hear from Haven students, family members, and staff talk about their school experience.

Registration/Program Selection for 6th Grade Dual Language Program at Bessie Rhodes



Deadline for Applying to Bessie Rhodes Dual Language (6th Gr.): April 26, 2024

Current TWS or TWX 5th Gr. Bessie Rhodes Student

Complete the Districtwide Registration Process for 6th Grade*

Current TWE Bessie Rhodes 5th Gr. Student

Complete the Districtwide Registration Process for 6th Grade*

5th Grade students at Bessie Rhodes are accepted automatically into the 6th grade dual language program.

Students who are designated as a Spanish speaking English Language Learner (TWS or TWX) who apply for dual language will be prioritized and accepted into the program. Remaining seats will be allocated by lottery to native English speaking (TWE) TWI students districtwide.

TWS or TWX 5th Gr. Student Districtwide

TWE 5th Gr. Student Districtwide

Districtwide Registration:
Complete the Districtwide Registration Process for 6th Grade*

1. In the registration form, select YES for "I am interested in applying for a magnet school or selective enrollment program."
2. Select Dr. Bessie Rhodes and answer required question.

All students entering 6th grade must complete this process regardless of the school they are attending.