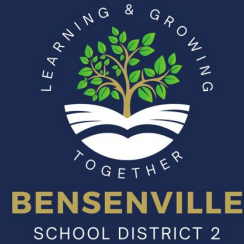




Spanish Language Program

Board Presentation

December 18, 2024



Purpose:

- to research and develop how the District could potentially add an elementary Spanish program to the school day
- To align to our district vision and strategic priorities:
 - To be an exemplary school system that empowers individuals to engage, grow, and succeed.
 - To engage all students with diverse learning experiences from an appropriately aligned and challenging curriculum.

Non-Purpose:

- to discuss or make changes to the current EL and Dual Language Programs. These programs will remain unchanged.

Illinois Arts and Foreign Language Education Grant Program

- Grant money was used to develop district-based plans for recommending a foreign language program at the elementary schools through a committee. It was a one year planning grant.
- Upon successful completion of the planning, an organization may apply for a 3 year implementation grant. (with District match requirements)

WHY INVEST IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING?



- Positive effect on intellectual growth
- Enriches mental development
- More flexibility in thinking
- Greater sensitivity to language and cultural differences
- Develops better listening skills for learning other languages
- Improves understanding of native language
- Provides opportunities to communicate with others
- Gives the child a head start in language requirements for college.
- Prepares students for 21st Century employment opportunities

Biliteracy Seal

The State Seal of Biliteracy is a recognition given by a district/school to graduating high school students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in English and in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in another language. The Seal is affixed to the student's transcript with the language identified under the Seal.

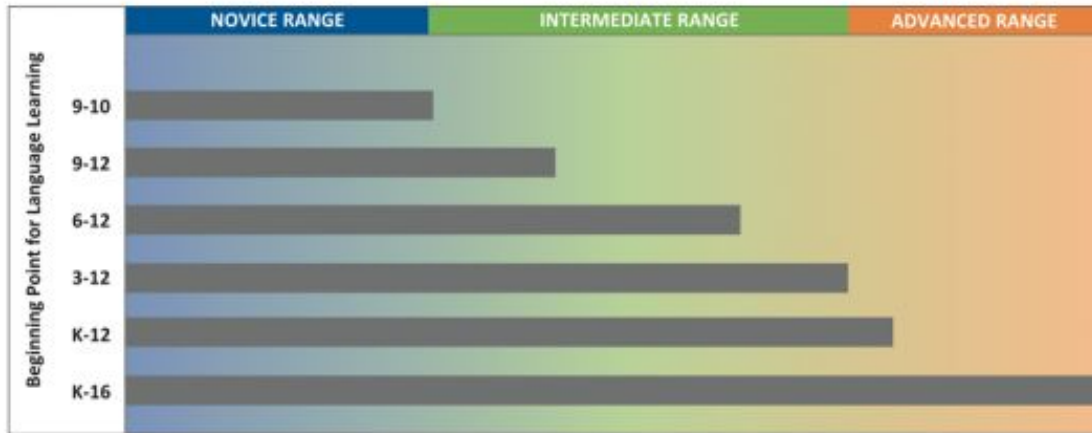
The community college or university shall award foreign language course credit to a student who has received a State Seal of Biliteracy.

[College Credits](#)

Why start in Elementary School?

ACTFL Proficiency Levels

TIME AS A CRITICAL COMPONENT FOR DEVELOPING LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE



Why Spanish

Target Language: Spanish

- Demographics of our community
- Highest course enrollment in Fenton
- Biliteracy Seal Benefits for Students

Program Type: FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools)

Goal: Acquire proficiency (minimum of 75 minutes a week)

Mission and Vision...

Mission: Cultivate a lifelong love for language learning while preparing students to thrive in a multilingual and multicultural world.

Vision: Students in the FLES program will develop Spanish proficiency in order to communicate beyond their native language and build a pathway toward diverse academic, career and cultural opportunities.

Program Goals....

Goals:

- Increase academic achievement and enhance cognitive skills through learning in more than one language.
- Develop a balanced proficiency across all 4 language domains (reading, writing, listening and speaking).
- Strengthen our diverse community by celebrating multilingualism.
- Cultivate global citizens that embrace other cultures and languages.
- Acquire and sustain Spanish language proficiency with the goal of achieving the seal of biliteracy.

Where do we begin?

Kindergarten

Pros:

- Begin at the earliest level of learning
- Research shows the earlier the better

Cons:

- Purposeful play is already built into the school day
- Many students are just learning “school”
- **Not all students come to kindergarten so many would be behind in Spanish learning**
- KIDS assessment

First Grade

Pros:

- All students are mandated to attend first grade
- Majority of students have attended kindergarten so know routines/ exposure to foundational skills
- Purposeful play is not within other grade levels
- Beginning early language learning is key

Cons:

- Requires allocation of instructional minutes
- Schedule is tight

Elementary Instructional Minutes with FLES

1st grade 2025-26

2nd grade 2026-27

3rd grade 2027-28

4th grade 2028-29

5th grade 2029-30

Kindergarten	
Morning Meeting	10 min
Literacy Block	120 min
Lit Plus Block	20 min
Math Block	60 min
Math Plus Block	20 min
Lunch/Recess	40 min
Science and Social Science	30 min
Specials	50 min
Purposeful Play	20 min

1st and 2nd Grade	
Morning Meeting	10 min
Literacy Block	110 min
Lit Plus Block	30 min
Math Block	60 min
Math Plus Block	30 min
Lunch/Recess	40 min
FLES	25-30 min
Science and Social Science	30 min
Specials	50 min

3rd Grade	
Morning Meeting	10 min
Literacy Block	90 min
Lit Plus Block	30 min
Math Block	60 min
Math Plus Block	30 min
Lunch/Recess	40 min
FLES	25-30 min
Science and Social Science	40 min
Specials	50 min

4-5th Grade	
Morning Meeting	10 min
Literacy Block	90 min
Lit Plus Block	30 min
Math Block	70 min
Math Plus Block	30 min
Lunch/Recess	40 min
FLES	25-30 min
Science and Social Science	40 min
Specials	50 min

Year by Year Roll Out

Year 1-2025-26	1st grade
Year 2-2026-27	2nd grade
Year 3-2027-28	3rd grade
Year 4-2028-29	4th grade
Year 5-2029-30	5th grade
Year 6-2030-31	6th grade
Year 7-2031-32	7th grade
Year 8-2032-33	8th grade

Year by Year allows for:

- Hiring appropriately certified staff
- Articulated, responsive curriculum development aligned to grade level learning and language proficiency
- Assessment and progress monitoring development
- Grade level and Language teachers to have the opportunity to develop curriculum together
- Purchasing of Resources

Staffing Plan

Year	Year 1 2025-26	Year 2 2026-27	Year 3 2027-28	Year 4 2028-29	Year 5 2029-30
Johnson	1 Teacher	N/A	2 Teachers	2 Teachers	2 Teachers
Tioga	1 Teacher	N/A	2 Teachers	2 Teachers	2 Teachers
Total	2 Teachers	N/A	4 Teachers	4 Teachers	4 Teachers

Teacher Qualifications: Foreign language endorsement and Elementary certification

Staffing after Year 6:

- Need to determine structure of course selection at the middle school level
- Potential need for additional FTE when FLES rolls up to middle school

Estimated Budget costs per year

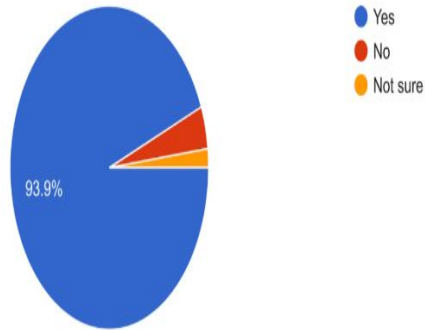
Staffing *year 3-5	\$300,000
Materials/Resources	\$10,000
Professional Development	\$2,500
Curriculum Writing	\$15,000

- Potential for budget neutral the first 5 years through natural attrition and sunsetting of ESSER positions.
- After year 5, we will need to evaluate the middle school structure and potential add FTE for Spanish Instruction.
- Potential implementation funds to support first three years
 - Year 1: up to \$100,000 grant (with a 25% match)
 - Year 2: up to \$75,000 grant (with a 50% match)
 - Year 3: up to \$50,000 grant (with a 100% match)
- Continue a balanced budget as reflected in the 5 year forecast

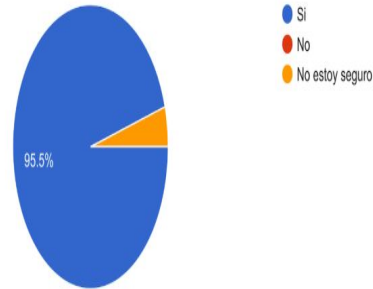
Parent Survey Results

Do you believe that learning a foreign language is important for children at the elementary school level?

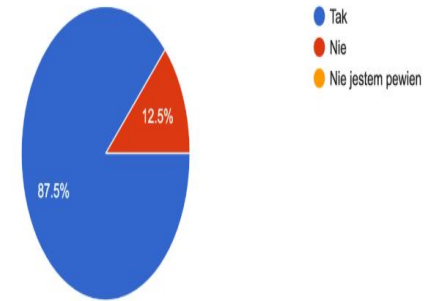
English responses
N=212



Spanish responses
N=44



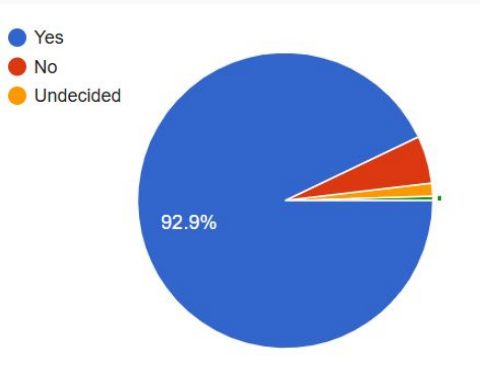
Polish Responses
N=8



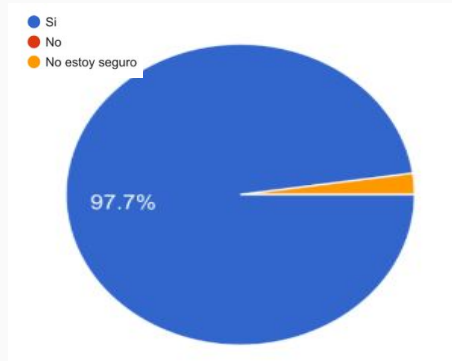
Parent Survey Results

Are you in favor of D2 developing a Spanish Foreign Language at the Elementary School class scheduled within the school day?

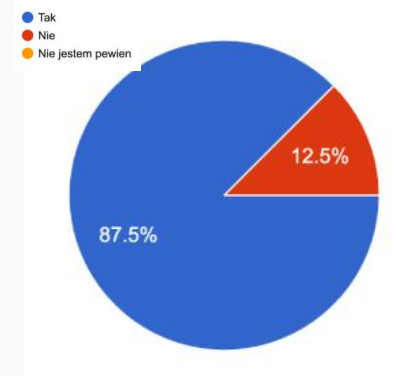
English responses
N=212



Spanish responses
N=44



Polish Responses
N=8



Next Steps

- Hold virtual and in-person information Nights
- Hire Staff
- Develop 1st grade Spanish curriculum
- Purchase Resources & Materials
- Implement program in 1st grade 2025-26

Thank you! This work couldn't be done without this amazing group of staff, administrators, parents, and community members

Mary Yetter-Tioga, ESL

Chelsea Gnan-WAJ, 5th grade SPED Resource

Jennifer Carlson-WAJ, 5th grade

Marlen Ojeda-WAJ, 2nd grade

Ashley Dolce-WAJ, Intermediate ALS

Tereon Teague-Tioga, 3rd grade

Nisma Castaneda-WAJ, 3rd grade dual

S. Ruby Moya-WAJ, Bilingual speech pathologist

Meg McGrath-Tioga, Inst Coach

Karla Alvarez-WAJ, Inst Coach

Bridget Tello-Tioga, Kinder dual

Mayra Rojas-WAJ, ESL

Alejandro Yanun-BMS, Spanish

Yuri Zepeda-Tioga, K-5 Bilingual Reading Interventionist

Jeff Kersten-Tioga, Admin

Michelle Kozij-WAJ, K-5 Bilingual Reading Interventionist

Jessica Seiglie-BMS, 6-8th EL Social Science

Jennifer Nadolski-Tioga, 5th grade

Zulema Davalos-WAJ, 4th grade TBE

Carlos Patino-WAJ Principal

Dr. Katie McCluskey-Superintendent

Dr. Anne Paonessa-Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Susie Gonzalez-Johnson Parent

Mojca Anaya - BMS Parent

Chris Hernandez -Tioga Parent

Lorenzo Rubio-Fenton Language Director

Kate Ward-Fenton Principal

Melissa Berlanga-Tioga Parent

Petra Micohlavova-Johnson Parent

Questions

