



Bilingual Education in Dover Public Schools

Dover Public Schools is committed to providing high-quality language support for our Multilingual Learners (MLs) through a range of bilingual and ESL programs designed to meet diverse student needs. Our goal is to foster bilingualism, biliteracy, and academic success while valuing students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Types of Language Support Programs

ESL

At Dover Public Schools, we make sure that every eligible Multilingual Learner (ML) in grades K-12 has access to at least one period of ESL instruction each day. This ensures that students at all levels of language proficiency get the support they need to improve their English skills while keeping up with their schoolwork. Our goal is to help each student succeed both academically and in their language development.

High Intensity ESL

At Dover Public Schools, we offer High Intensity ESL for eligible Multilingual Learners (MLs) in grades 9-12. Students in this program receive two periods of ESL instruction each day, providing them with additional language support to accelerate their English language development. This intensive instruction ensures that students have the time and resources needed to build their English skills while keeping up with their academic requirements. Our goal is to provide these students with the support they need to succeed both in their studies and in their language journey.

Part Time Bilingual

At Dover Public Schools, eligible Multilingual Learners (MLs) receive additional support through our Part-Time Bilingual program. In this program, students receive Math instruction from a certified Bilingual Math teacher, ensuring they can fully understand and engage with the content in their first language while developing their math skills. This approach helps bridge language barriers, allowing students to build a strong foundation in mathematics while continuing to grow in their English proficiency.

A dark blue illustration of a classroom scene. Several students are seated at desks, working on laptops and papers. In the background, there are chalkboards with mathematical diagrams and equations. The overall tone is professional and educational.

Additional Bilingual Programs

Traditional Bilingual

At Dover Public Schools, our Full-Time Bilingual program supports eligible Multilingual Learners (MLs) whose first language is Spanish by providing instruction in both Spanish and English. This approach helps students develop their English proficiency while ensuring academic success. Currently available in grades 4-6, the program will continue in grades 5-6 starting in the 2025-2026 school year. By receiving content instruction in their native language while gradually increasing exposure to English, students can build both language and academic skills with confidence.

Dual Language Program

Dover Public Schools is dedicated to supporting bilingualism, biliteracy, and cultural understanding through our Dual Language Program. We currently implement a 50/50 dual language model in grades K-3, where students split their instructional time evenly between Spanish and English. This approach helps them build strong academic skills in both languages while maintaining and developing their native language abilities.

Our Dual Language Program primarily serves Multilingual Learners (MLs), with over 92% of students in the program eligible for full-time bilingual education. This model creates an inclusive learning environment that promotes language development and academic success. As we continue expanding, our program will soon include grade K-4, allowing more students to benefit from bilingual instruction.

Benefits of Dual Language Education



Academic Excellence

Studies consistently show that dual language education has lasting benefits. Research indicates that students in dual language programs often perform better than their peers in monolingual settings on standardized tests.



Cognitive Advantages

They also demonstrate greater cognitive flexibility, problem-solving skills, and an enhanced ability to think critically about language. Bilingualism has also been linked to improved executive functioning, stronger memory, and long-term career advantages in an increasingly interconnected world.



Cultural Appreciation

Beyond academics, dual language education fosters cultural appreciation and cross-cultural communication, helping students develop a global perspective. By investing in bilingual education, Dover Public Schools ensures that students gain the language proficiency and skills needed to succeed in school and beyond.

Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC)

At Dover Public Schools, our Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) provides families of Multilingual Learners (MLs) with valuable information, resources, and opportunities to engage in their children's education. BPAC meets 3-4 times per year to discuss programs, share updates, and collaborate on ways to support student success. These meetings serve as a space for parents to ask questions, connect with educators, and learn more about how the district supports MLs. We encourage all families to participate and be active partners in their children's educational journey.



Join the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee

We invite all parents and guardians of Multilingual Learners to become active members of our Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC). Your participation helps strengthen our programs and ensures that family perspectives are included in our educational planning.

To join the committee, please fill out our online form. Your involvement makes a difference in shaping the educational experience for all Multilingual Learners at Dover Public Schools.

[SIGN UP FOR THE COMMITTEE HERE](#)



Program Eligibility and Support

Program	Eligible Grades	Language Support
ESL	K-12	One period daily
High Intensity ESL	9-12	Two periods daily
Part-Time Bilingual	K-12	Math instruction in native language
Full-Time Bilingual	4-6 (changing to 5-6 in 2025-2026)	Instruction in both Spanish and English
Dual Language	K-3 (expanding to K-4)	50/50 Spanish and English instruction

Dover Public Schools is committed to providing the right support for each Multilingual Learner based on their individual needs and language proficiency level. Our range of programs ensures that every student has access to appropriate language instruction while maintaining academic progress.