



MOUNTIE MINDS

ADVISORY COUNCIL

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR



#OneSuffern



Mountie Minds Meeting - Evening At-A-Glance

6:30 - 6:40: Introductions & Framing the Evening

6:40 - 6:50: Ice Breaker

6:50 - 7:10: School Counseling & Wellness Update with Sarah Kern

7:10 - 7:15: My Brother's Keeper Initiative with Dr. Wellinthon García-Mathews

7:15 - 7:30: Multilingual Learners Dept / Two-Way Dual Language Program Update with Dr. Patricia Balbuena

7:30 - 8:00: General District Updates and Q&A



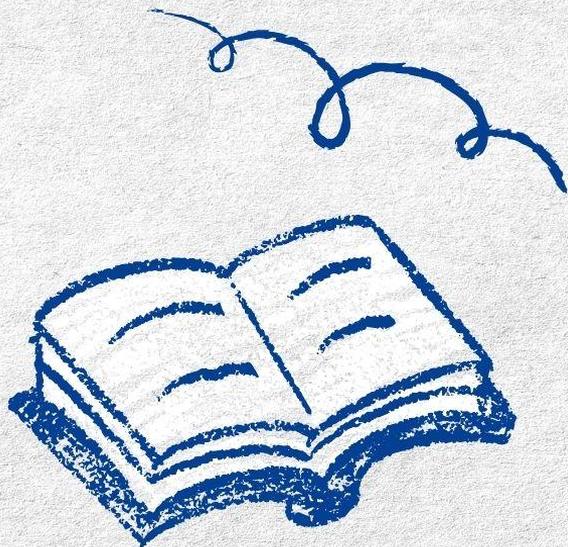
Welcome to Mountie Minds!

SUFFERN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL COUNSELING & WELLNESS



THINK FAST



What is one memory you have of you school (AKA Guidance) counselor from when you were in school?

Tell us about a time your child shared something with you that involved their counselor?



SCSD COUNSELING PROGRAM



ELEMENTARY:

- Full time counselors in each school for the very first time!!
- SEL in all classrooms



SUFFERN MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Three counselors, one per grade level
- Every parent and every student's point of contact
- Integral in Leader in Me
- 504 counseling
- Scheduling/academic advisement

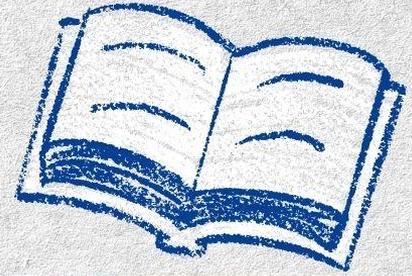


SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL:

- 7 counselors assigned students alphabetically
- Every parent and student's point of contact
- Control an every changing calendar of events
- 504 counseling
- Scheduling/academic advisement
- Career/college counseling



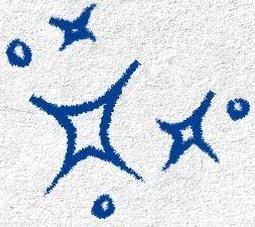
ELEMENTARY



- Social Emotional Learning
 - 20 SEL lessons delivered in each classroom
 - Topics based on NYSED guidelines and building needs
- Tier 1 Support
- 504 Individual and Group Counseling



MIDDLE SCHOOL



- Each year begins with a minute meeting
- New Lunch and Learns
 - December 2024 - "Mindfulness"
- 504 Counseling
- Scheduling/Academic Advisement/Integrated SEL



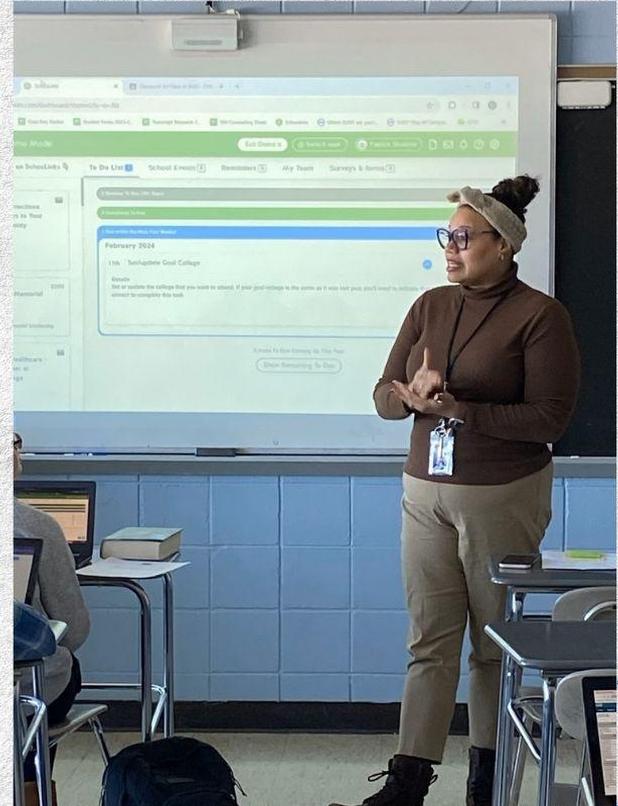


SUFFERN HIGH SCHOOL



- Fall
 - Senior Assembly & College/Career Advising
 - Grade Level Groups
- Winter
 - Schoolinks
 - Immediate Decision Days
- Spring
 - Scheduling
 - Junior College/Career Advising

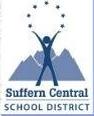
Parent Events: 9th Parent Hour, Senior Parent Night, Financial Aid Night, 9th Orientation, College Panel, FAFSA Completion (NEW)



SOCIAL WORK & WELL-BEING INTERNS



COMMUNICATION GOALS



The Suffern Connection
School Counselors * School Social Workers
supporting our students on their school journey



Elementary School



Middle School



High School

Fall 2024

This year, the Counseling and Social Emotional Wellness department has expanded to encompass both our K-12 School Counselors and our K-12 Social Workers. Together, these twenty individuals work diligently to support our students on their journey through Suffern Central Schools. Our elementary school counselors focus on social-emotional learning, ensuring our youngest mounties can name their feelings and appropriately navigate the social world that is school. To compliment their work, elementary social workers run groups and meet individually with students who may need more support. At the middle school level, school counselors begin to focus on the importance of academics, in addition to supporting our students through the turbulent times of early puberty. Like their elementary colleagues, middle school social workers help our students with increased needs and look to connect families to community resources that may help support students. At the high school level, school counselors ensure timely graduation and coordinate post-high school planning, while our social worker and student assistance counselor run programs to strengthen the mental health of our students and educate students on the dangers of substance use.



This month, our social workers are hosting a support group for all families on Thursday, November 21st at



- Academics
- Business
- Communications
- Facilities
- Food Service
- Health Services
- Human Resources
- Multilingual Education
- School Counseling and Well-being**
- Support Services for Students and Families
- Technology
- Transportation

HOME > DEPARTMENTS > SCHOOL COUNSELING AND WELL-BEING

School Counseling and Well-being

Suffern Central has a robust School Counseling and Well-being program to serve our students, staff and community. School Counselors, School Social Workers and Student Assistance Counselors work diligently to ensure all students at SCSD are happy, healthy and comfortable with who they are and their place in the world. We strive to foster a sense of belonging amongst our students, staff and community and work hard to serve all students.

Under the direction of Sarah Kern, Director of School Counseling and Social-Emotional Wellness, our staff compliment the work done inside of our classrooms to create a school environment in which the whole child's needs are addressed. With a positive, strength based approach, our team is diligent in supporting our students and helping them on their path to high school graduation and beyond.

Elementary School

Middle School

High School

K-12 Social Work





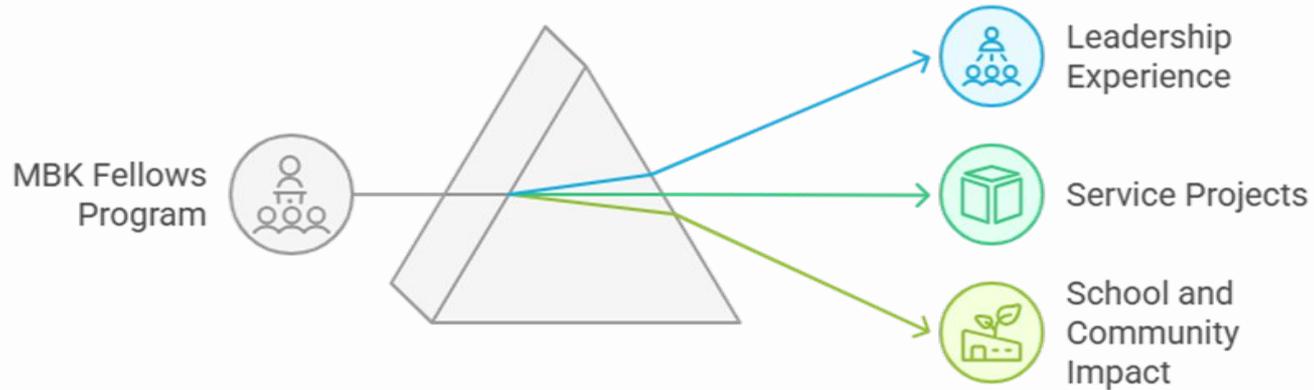
New York State

MBK Initiative

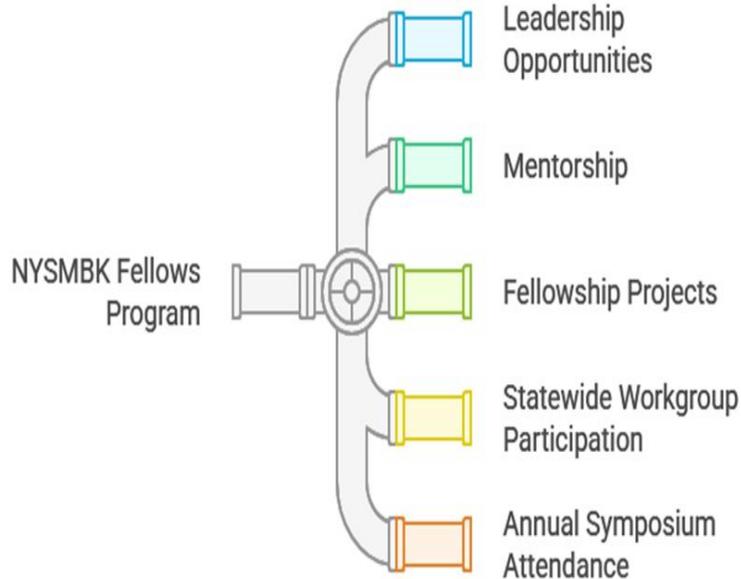
Dept of Education Grant

Purpose of NYSED MBK Fellows

Pathways to Leadership for Young Men of Color



Pathways of the NYSMBK Fellows Program



- provided authentic leadership opportunities in local government and/or education and/or business.
- Annually select NYSMBK Fellows, current 11th graders, to participate in the program, which will begin with the Fellows' induction at the Annual NYSMBK Statewide Symposium and continue through the students' 12th-grade year.
- Each NYSMBK Fellow will have a mentor.
- Each NYSMBK Fellow will develop and complete a service project related to one of the NYSMBK Milestones with the partner that would benefit the school and/or community.
- Fellows will serve on a statewide My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Fellows Workgroup, coordinated by the NYSED Office of Family and Community Engagement,

SCSD Two-Way Dual Language Program



*Innovation, Bilingualism and Multiculturalism
for ALL Students!*

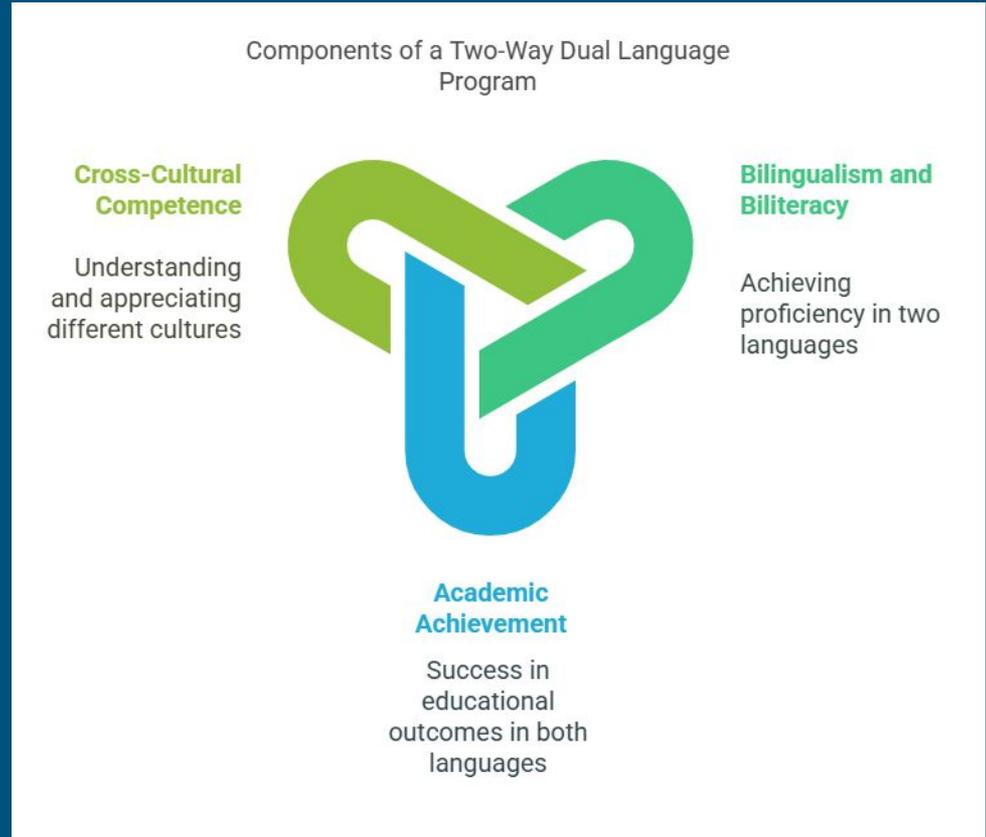
January 27, 2025
Mountie Minds Meeting
Dr. Patricia Balbuena-Rivera

Highlighting our Students!



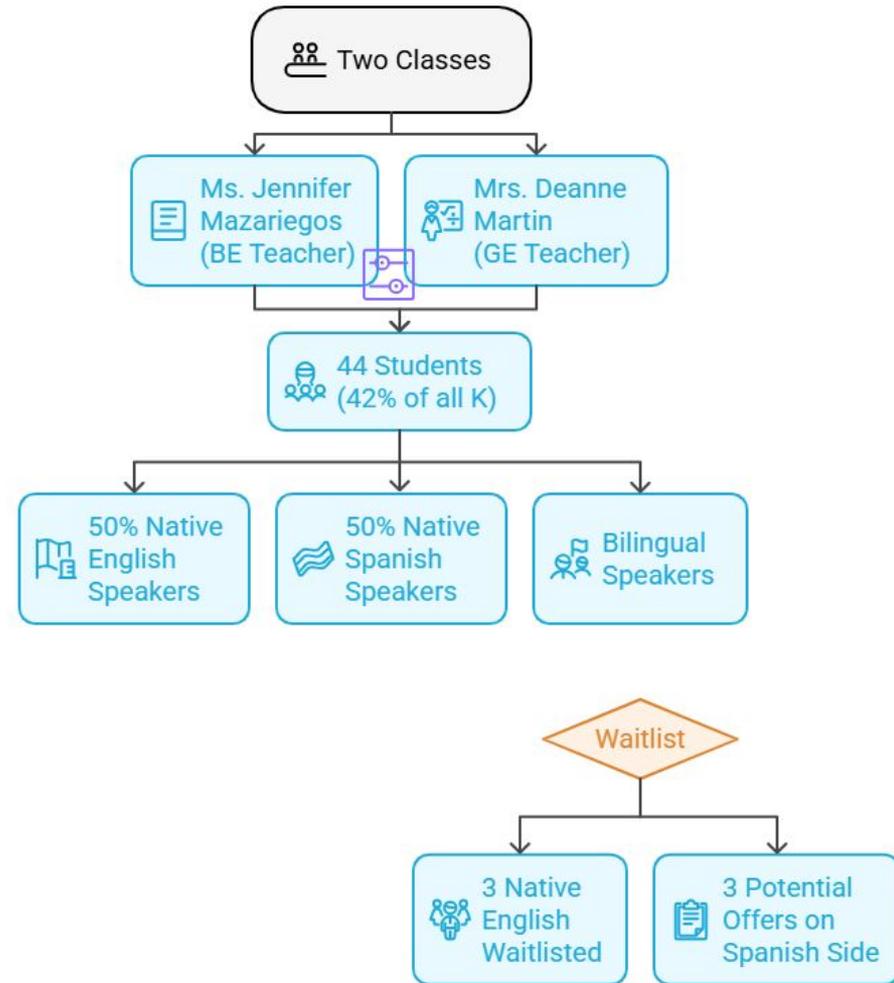
What Is the Two-Way Dual Language Program?

- *Dual language programs offer ALL (native-English and native-Spanish) students the unique opportunity to become proficient in two languages.*
- *This is an inclusive, enrichment model program that fosters bilingualism, biliteracy, and intercultural competence.*
- *Prepares students for success in our increasingly interconnected world.*



Two-Way Dual Language Programs at SCSD

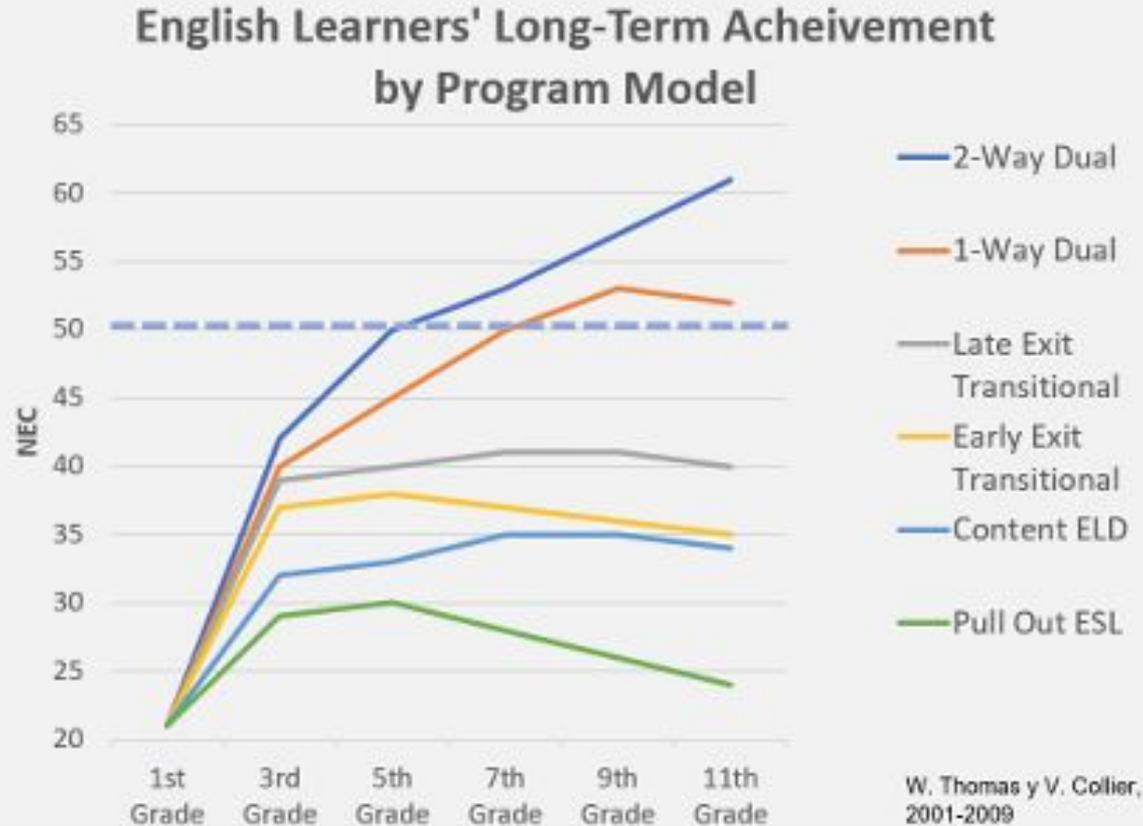
2024-2025 - We opened our 1st Two-Way Kindergarten Dual Language Program at Sloatsburg Elementary!



Research



Thomas & Collier - The Graph



What are the benefits of a Two-Way Dual Language Program for students?



Benefits of Two-Way Dual Language Programs

Cognitive Skills

Improved problem-solving, critical thinking, memory, and mental flexibility



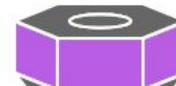
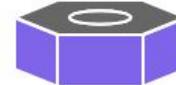
Cultural Awareness

Increased global preparedness; both groups share their cultures



Inclusive Learning Environment

Readiness for interconnected world; increased authentic language use among students



Academic Performance

Enhanced performance in core subjects; outperform students in other models



Career Opportunities

Opens doors to a wide range of career paths



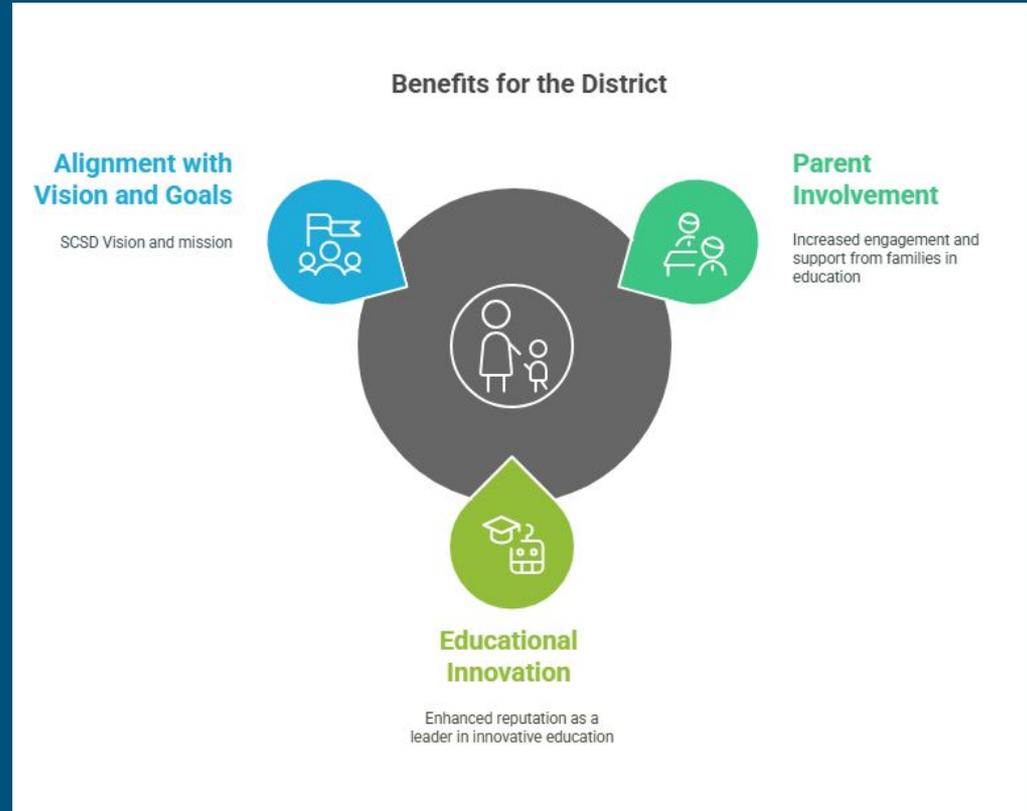
Bilingualism and Biliteracy

What are the benefits of a Two-Way Dual Language Program for the district and community?

"I am so glad I put my daughter in the program. She is learning all of the subject matter in Spanish and English - class direction, reading instruction, interacting in class, and it's so cute to hear her singing in spanish and read and write in two languages."

"It's not just learning the language, it's also the cultural component of appreciating other languages and cultures. I want my daughter to feel like she's able to connect with people in different ways, and this program is helping that."

"When my son comes home, he wants to do his work and tell me things in Spanish. I'm not fluent myself, but the program seems to be working and I'm very happy and glad that I got him involved in the program because I can see the difference."



SCSD Principles for Successful Implementation

**Developed collaboratively with
various stakeholders and research.*

SCSD Principles: Implementing a Successful Dual Language Program

Interactive Strategies

Collaborative methods for student
engagement



Instructional Models

50/50 time distribution in each language



Language Fidelity

Continues instruction without
translation or repeated lessons



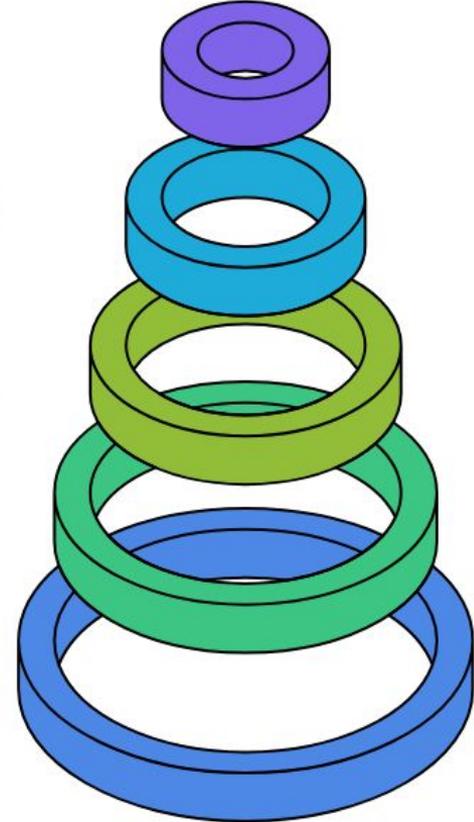
Academic Excellence

Rigorous curriculum in both languages



Commitment Foundation

Long-term support for program goals
from families and the district



SCSD Dual Language Programs

One-Way Dual Language Programs from Kindergarten to High School Level developed as we continue to build our Two-Way programs.

Amazing team of 22 BE Teachers K-12!

What is the difference between a Two-Way Dual Language Program and a One-Way Dual Language Program?



Two-Way Program

Promotes multilingualism for ALL students;
Inclusive and innovative
Enrichment model

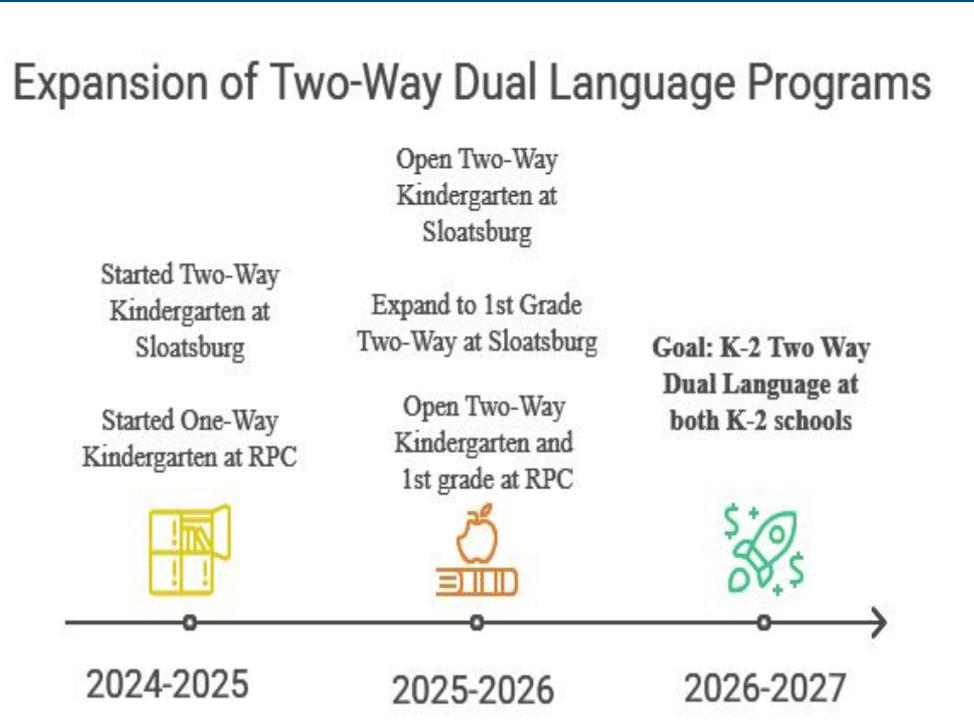


One-Way Program

Bridge to bilingualism for English Language Learners;
Supports native-language development for ELLs

SCSD Vision and Future Goals

1. RP Connor: Gather community interest for **Kindergarten AND 1st Grade Two-Way Dual Language program** at R.P.Connor.
2. Sloatsburg: Expand current Kindergarten program to 1st grade; and gather community interest for new incoming Kindergarten Two-Way Program.



Important Dates

Dual Language Family Information Sessions: for all *incoming Kindergarten* and *current Kindergarten* families at both Sloatsburg and RP Connor.

February 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

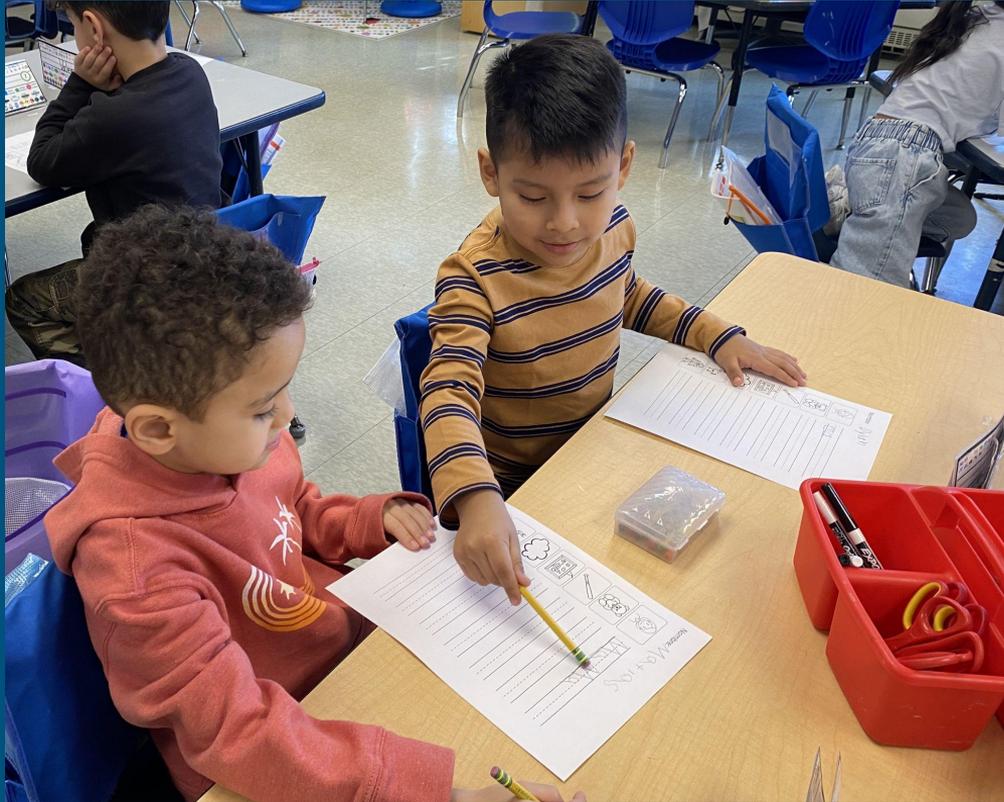
February 7, 2025 at 9:45 a.m.

Location: SCSD Hillburn Board Room

Application Deadline: **April 7, 2025**



Two-Way Dual Language Program: Students serving as language models for each other.



Questions,
Comments,
Thoughts





District Updates from Dr. Gundersen

Facilities





School Climate Survey