# Dual Language Immersion for English Learners (ELs)

## ESOL Dual Language Immersion Model in Fulton County

Dual language education programs provide academic instruction in two languages, fostering both social and academic development in an environment that respects and values the language and culture of all students. Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs set high standards for academic achievement in both Spanish and English. This model creates a bilingual learning environment where English Learner (EL) students can acquire English proficiency while simultaneously developing and strengthening their native language skills.

*"...we learn about lots of words and places. We can use our Spanish words to help us with our English ones...so we know more words than everyone else in 1st grade!"*

*Student, 6 years old*

## Mission



*To prepare English Learners to be critical thinkers and productive citizens through the acquisition of literacy and the cultural skills necessary to communicate effectively in English and Spanish, while expanding their world view and college and career opportunities*

In Fulton County, the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program follows a 50:50 one-way ESOL model, where classroom instruction is evenly divided between English and Spanish. Students receive 50% of their instruction in English and 50% in Spanish, developing skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in both languages.

Students in grades K–5 receive English Language Arts (ELA) instruction in both English and Spanish.

- From Kindergarten through second grade, students receive ELA integrated with Science and Social Studies, Student Success Skills and Intervention in English, while Math is taught in Spanish.
- In grades three through five, the instructional model shifts: Math and ELA are taught in English, while Student Success Skills, Intervention, and ELA integrated with Science and Social Studies are delivered in Spanish.

Hapeville Elementary has a comprehensive K–5 Dual Language Immersion ESOL program.

## Benefits of DLI

- Positive effect on intellectual growth
- Enriches and enhances a child's cognitive development
- Gives children an advanced start on language requirements for college/life
- Research shows that a 50:50 one-way developmental bilingual program shows students reached the 72nd percentile after four years of bilingual schooling and continued to be above grade level in seventh grade.

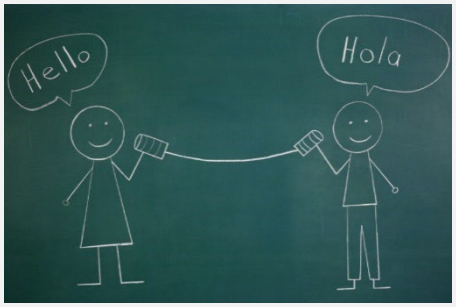
Collier & Thomas, 2002 & 2012

# Goal

To develop bilingualism, bi-literacy, and biculturalism

## Program Goals

- Develop high levels of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in both Spanish and English.
- Support students in meeting or exceeding grade-level academic standards in both languages.
- Leverage the optimal window for second language acquisition during the early childhood years.




*"Teaching DLI allows me the time to not only teach the rigors and nuances of language, but also, to explore the diversity of other cultures, while allowing the student to become more curious and gain a better understanding of being global citizens, both now and in the future!"*

FCS Teacher, *Ms. Cosma*

## Enrollment

Students who are eligible for the ESOL program and zoned for Hapeville Elementary Schools may apply for entry into the Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program. This DLI program follows an ESOL- approved model recognized by the Department of Education for English Learners (ELs). Qualifying EL students will continue to receive ESOL services during the English portion of the ELA instructional block as part of their daily schedule.

## The Classroom Experience

Fulton DLI teachers implement a comprehensive approach to literacy instruction in both Spanish and English. This method integrates content, language, and literacy instruction, creating meaningful connections between reading, oral language, and writing. Educators in Fulton County are specifically trained in the Teaching for Biliteracy model, which supports the development of strong literacy skills in both languages.

For more information about the Teaching for Biliteracy framework, please visit the resources linked below.

HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/TeachDLI | HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/TeachingDLI

## K-5 Elementary Dual Language Immersion

### Hapeville Elementary



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