



Dual Language Spanish Two-Way Immersion Elementary Guidelines



Dual Language Immersion Program Goals:

- Attain high levels of academic proficiency in both the English and Spanish language
- Become bilingual (Speaking & Listening) and biliterate (Reading & Writing)
- Develop positive cross-cultural perspectives

Program Guidelines:

Dual Language Spanish Two-Way Immersion Programs in Palm Beach County adhere to the guidelines below.

- Two-way immersion is a distinctive form of dual language education in which native English speakers and native Spanish speakers are learning side-by-side so that both groups of students serve in the role of language model and language learner at different times. Classes maintain a balanced composition of these two student groups while considering school demographics.
- A newly arrived English Language Learner (ELL) whose home language is Spanish may enter the Two-Way Dual Language Immersion program at any grade level ***regardless of literacy level in their native language, as participation in the program serves as their designated ESOL instructional model.***
- Beginning in second grade, students whose home language is not Spanish are expected to demonstrate proficiency in Spanish to enter the program. A comprehensive approach to placement should be used when making decisions.
- Dual Language Two-Way Immersion program is an opportunity for all.

In Palm Beach County, Dual Language Spanish Two-Way Immersion programs use the 50/50 model for instruction. This model guarantees that English and Spanish are each utilized for 50% of the instructional time throughout the program. Literacy instruction takes place in both languages (Reading and Writing). The allocation of the second content area of instruction in Spanish is determined by the school to ensure the equal distribution of both languages for instruction.

The curricular and instructional practices adhere to the [Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education](#).

- Instruction includes a clear separation of languages to support high levels of language acquisition.
- Students' bilingualism is leveraged through strategic and intentionally planned cross-linguistic strategies.
- The implementation of district-adopted materials in English and Spanish ensures that instruction aligns with state standards while maintaining the equal status of both languages.

Teachers have certification in the area of instruction and pass the District's Spanish Language Proficiency Assessment.

All decisions about scheduling, materials, staffing, family engagement, and professional learning align with the [Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education](#). For the most current research and support, schools work with the Dual Language Instructional Team in the Department of Multicultural Education.