## Program Model "50:50"

Hmong Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Program integrates English proficient and English learner students for the purpose of developing language proficiency and academic achievement in students' first and second languages and cross-cultural understanding.

The elementary Hmong DLI program follows a 50:50 model with a simultaneous integrated literacy approach, where students learn to read, write, and speak in both Hmong and English. Science, History/Social Science (HSS), and Physical Education (P.E.) and Art are delivered in Hmong, whereas English Language Arts (ELA) and Math are delivered in English in Pre-school to 3 rd grade.

Beginning in grade 4, Science is taught in English while Hmong Language Arts is added to the Hmong instructional block. Hmong culture as well as other cultures are integrated into all content subjects. Below is a general overview of the Hmong DLI instructional block.

| Grades | Language Instruction |
|---|---|
| Pre-K | Hmong: 90 min<br>English: 90 min |
| TK-Kinder | Hmong: 140 min<br>English: 140 min |
| Grades 1-3 | Hmong: 170 min<br>English: 170 min |
| Grades 4-6 | Hmong: 170 min<br>English: 170 min |

## What is a Dual Language Immersion Program?

The Fresno Unified School District Dual Language Immersion Program ensures that all students attain high levels of biliteracy and academic proficiency in two languages, while simultaneously developing cross-cultural competence.

We are committed to cultivating and maintaining students' cultural identities by creating a learning environment that equally values and respects both languages and all cultures.

We develop confident, continual learners who promote with linguistic abilities and positive cross-cultural attitudes to better appreciate and more fully engage with the rich diversity of multicultural communities.

## Who can participate in the Dual Language Imersion Program?

Pre-K, Transitional Kinder and Kindergarten students who speak either Hmong, English or both can participate. Every attempt is made to balance clasroom enrollment among the language groups.

Parents/Guardians who choose to enroll their child in a Dual Language Immersion Program, make a long-term commitment to keep their student in the program from Pre-K through grade 6. Students wishing to pursure the Dual Language Immersion Pathway may continue at Sequoia Middle School.

Fresno Unified School District

# HMONG DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION

*Preparing career and college ready graduates who are bilingual, biliterate and culturally competent.*



**Balderas Elementary**

**Vang Pao Elementary**

**Sequoia Middle School**

7-13-26



## Dual Language Immersion Philosophy

- Language Learning is natural for children
- Language learning enhances mental and intellectual development
- Language learning develops a broader view of diversity

## Dual Language Immersion Program Goals:

- Bilingualism and Biliteracy
  - » Proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in Hmong and English
- Grade-Level Academic Achievement
  - » High levels of cognitive development in Hmong and English
- Sociocultural Competence
  - » Positive cultural and linguistic pride and self-esteem, and understanding of the cultures and traditions of others

## Neighborhood/Site-Based vs Choice Schools

- Neighborhood/Site-Based Schools:
  - » ***Priority enrollment*** - for students living within the school attendance boundary
  - » Open to transfers when space is available
- Choice Schools
  - » ***Priority enrollment*** - for students living within FUSD attendance boundaries
  - » Open enrollment for all students

## Hmong Heritage Speaker Courses

To support Hmong students who may not speak the language but have Hmong-speaking family members at home, Fresno Unified School District launched Hmong Heritage Speakers I in fall 2016 and Hmong Heritage Speakers II in 2017. The courses are offered at all seven comprehensive high schools, one specialized high school, and one middle school.

These courses build Hmong literacy through authentic cultural topics and activities in reading, writing, listening, speaking, critical thinking, and language development.

In 2021, the district added Hmong Heritage Speakers III. Through Fresno State's Division of Continuing and Global Education, students can earn dual-enrollment college credit. The course strengthens language and literacy skills while engaging students in social issues, youth-led participatory action research, and project- and service-based learning.

Students who complete these courses can earn two years of "e" credit toward the University of California and California State University A–G college admission requirements in one year. Students who successfully complete the courses and meet other state requirements may also earn the California State Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diploma and receive a district medallion. These achievements can strengthen their college applications and prepare them for opportunities in a competitive global workforce.




## A Pathway to the Presitigious "Seal of Biliteracy"

This program recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of profiency in speaking, reading and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. The expectation is that students in Dual Immersion Programs are prepared to meet the criteria to earn the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation from high school.




- For **Site Based Enrollment Schools**, enrollment for all students must be completed at the school office.
- For **Enrollment Choice Schools**, all students must submit a "**Student Transfer Request**" form to the Transfers Office by December 1st to be considered an on-time applicant. For schools that receive more application than there are seats available, a lottery selection by primary language will be used to ensure equitable access.
- Every attempt is made to balance classroom enrollment by child's home language at all schools.

**For additional program questions, please contact:**

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