Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District
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Empowering Today's Learners to Thrive in Tomorrow's World

Parent Notice

Available Language Programs and Language Acquisition Programs

This notice provides information about the language acquisition programs and language programs available in the Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District and explains the process for parents and legal guardians to request the establishment of a language program pursuant to the California Education for a Global Economy (CA Ed.G.E.) Initiative.

The purpose of the CA Ed.G.E. Initiative is to ensure that all children in California public schools receive a high-quality education, master the English language, and have access to high-quality, innovative, and research-based language programs that prepare them to participate fully in a global economy. (Education Code [EC] § 300.)

Language Acquisition Program for English Learners

- **Structured English Immersion (SEI)**
  Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District provides a Structured English Immersion program for English learners. SEI provides designated and integrated English language development while ensuring students have meaningful access to grade-level academic content. Instruction is designed to support students in developing English proficiency and meeting state academic standards.

Language Program Available in the District

- **Spanish-English Dual Language Immersion (DLI) – Kindergarten**
  Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District offers a Spanish-English Dual Language Immersion program beginning in Kindergarten. The program provides instruction in both Spanish and English with the goal of developing bilingualism, biliteracy, high levels of academic achievement, and cross-cultural competence.

The Dual Language Immersion program is designed for students from a variety of language backgrounds, including English-speaking students, Spanish-speaking

students, and English learners. Students learn grade-level academic content through both languages as they develop proficiency and literacy in Spanish and English.

Families interested in the Dual Language Immersion program may contact the Education Services Office at (661) 269-5999 for information regarding enrollment, program availability, and participation.

Parent Requests for Language Programs

Parents or legal guardians may request a language acquisition program or language program for their child. If a preferred program is not currently offered, families may contact the Education Services Office at **(661) 269-5999** for assistance and information regarding the process for submitting a request.

When the parents or legal guardians of **30 or more students at a school**, or the parents or legal guardians of **20 or more students in any grade level at a school**, request a language acquisition program designed to provide language instruction, the district will respond in accordance with applicable California Education Code requirements.

Language acquisition programs and language programs that may be requested include, but are not limited to:

- Structured English Immersion (SEI)
- Dual Language Immersion (DLI)
- Transitional or Developmental Bilingual Programs
- Other language programs requested by parents or legal guardians

For more information on the California Education for a Global Economy Initiative: https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/caedge.asp

About Language Acquisition Programs and Language Programs

Program Type	Characteristics
Structured English Immersion	Structured English Immersion (SEI) is an instructional program designed for English Learners (ELs) in California public schools. Its primary goal is to provide ELs with intensive English language development while also providing access to grade-level content. SEI aims to equip students with the English language skills necessary to succeed in mainstream classrooms as quickly and effectively as possible. Here's a breakdown of what that means for your child: ● **Focus on English Language Development:** SEI prioritizes the systematic and explicit teaching of English. This includes instruction in grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, reading comprehension, and writing. Teachers use specialized strategies and materials designed to meet the specific language needs of ELs. ● **Content Area Instruction:** While English language development is the core focus, SEI also ensures that ELs continue to learn grade-level content in subjects like math, science, and social studies. Teachers may use various techniques to make this content accessible, such as visuals, simplified language, and collaborative activities. The goal is to provide access to the core curriculum while simultaneously building English proficiency. ● **Structured and Sheltered Instruction:** "Structured" implies a planned and organized approach to language instruction. "Sheltered" means that the content is presented in a way that is understandable for ELs at different language proficiency levels. Teachers are trained to modify their instruction to make it comprehensible and engaging for students who are still learning English. ● **Placement and Progress Monitoring:** Students are placed in SEI programs based on their initial English language proficiency assessment. Their progress in English language development is regularly monitored to determine when they are ready to transition to mainstream classrooms. This assessment includes multiple measures to ensure accurate evaluation of growth. ● **Goal of Rapid English Acquisition:** SEI is designed to help students acquire English proficiency as rapidly and effectively as possible so they can fully participate in mainstream classrooms. The length of time a student remains in SEI depends on their individual progress and language development. ● **Collaboration and Support:** SEI programs often involve collaboration between teachers, support staff, and parents to provide comprehensive support for ELs. Parent involvement is highly valued and encouraged.

	In short, SEI is a program designed to give your child the support they need to learn English and succeed academically. It provides a bridge between their home language and the English-speaking classroom environment, ensuring access to grade-level content while they develop the language skills necessary for long-term academic success. If you have further questions about SEI and how it benefits your child, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school's EL coordinator. We are here to support your child's language development journey.
Dual-Language Immersion (DLI)	Dual Language Immersion (DLI) is an educational program that provides instruction in two languages, with the goal of developing bilingualism and biliteracy in all participating students. In our district, this means your child will learn academic content in both English and [**Insert Target Language, e.g., Spanish**]. Here's a breakdown of what DLI offers: ● **Bilingualism and Biliteracy:** The primary goal is for students to become proficient in both English and the target language. This includes developing fluency in speaking, reading, and writing in both languages. ● **Academic Achievement:** DLI programs aim to provide rigorous academic instruction in both languages, ensuring students meet or exceed state academic standards. ● **Cultural Competence:** DLI fosters an appreciation for diverse cultures and promotes cross-cultural understanding. ● **Additive Bilingualism:** DLI values and builds upon students' home language while adding a second language. This approach respects and celebrates linguistic diversity. ● **Program Models:** DLI programs can vary, but generally involve a specific percentage of instruction in each language. For example, a 90/10 model might begin with 90% of instruction in the target language and gradually shift to 50/50 over time. ● **Long-Term Commitment:** DLI programs are most effective with a long-term commitment, ideally spanning elementary and middle school. **In essence, DLI provides your child with the opportunity to become bilingual and biliterate, gaining a valuable asset for academic and future success, while celebrating cultural and linguistic diversity.**

How to Request the Establishment of a New Program at a School

Schools in which the parents or legal guardians of 30 pupils or more per school or the parents or legal guardians of 20 pupils or more in any grade request a language acquisition program that is designed to provide language instruction shall be required to offer such a program to the extent possible. (EC Section 310[a].)

Parents may provide input regarding language and language acquisition programs in the LEA or to be considered in the LEA during the development of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (EC Section 52062.) If interested in a different program from those listed above, please contact the Education Services Office at (661) 269-5999 for assistance and guidance regarding the process for submitting a request.