Irving Elementary Dual Language Program

Sioux City Community School District
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What is Dual Language?

Two-Way Immersion is a type of dual language program in which two languages are used for instruction: English and a partner language. TWI programs use a variety of models, but they all provide instruction in the partner language for a significant portion of the school day (at least 50%).

The unique feature of this type of dual language instruction is that TWI programs enroll a roughly equal number of native English speakers and native speakers of the partner language (each group making up between one-third and two-thirds of the total student population), and they are integrated for all or most of the school day.

Dual language programs foster bilingualism, bi-literacy, enhanced awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity, and high levels of academic achievement through instruction in two languages.

What Does the Dual Language Program look like at Irving Elementary?

Irving Elementary School first implemented the Dual Language Program in the fall of 2005. We began with one section each of Spanish and English, 2 teachers, and approximately 35 students. As of 2014, our program has grown to 19 classrooms, 19 teachers, and over 520 students K – 8. We will extend our program into the 9th grade, starting in the fall of 2015.

Students at Irving Elementary spend half of their day in the Spanish room, and half of their day in the English room. Each quarter of the school year, they will rotate in which language they are receiving their content area instruction.

Students begin their reading instruction in both languages each day starting in Kindergarten, and continue this structure throughout the program.
Application Process

For applicants who are applying prior to Kindergarten, the process is as follows:

Applicants may apply at any time by submitting a completed application to Irving Elementary School. The application deadline will be one (1) week after Irving Elementary holds their Kindergarten Registration. Irving Elementary will be the last school in the SCCSD to hold Kindergarten registration (late April – early May).

If the applicants do not live in the Irving Elementary boundary area, they will also need to complete a transfer request from their home school. The incoming kindergartener will also need to attend their home school’s Kindergarten registration.

Letters of acceptance will be sent before the end of the school year.

Waiting list letters will be sent by June 15th.

An informational parent meeting will be held each year, prior to the first SCCSD Kindergarten registration date (late January – early February).

For applicants who are applying after the Kindergarten selection has taken place, or for another grade level, the process is as follows:

Applicants may apply at any time by submitting a completed application to Irving Elementary School. Any new applicants will be added to the end of the waiting list.

After the first semester of first grade, native English speakers with no prior Dual Language experience will not be admitted to the program.

When openings occur in Kindergarten and First Grade, they will be filled from the waiting list based on primary language.
To keep our class sizes manageable, openings will be determined based on current class size and enrollment.

When openings occur after the first semester of the First Grade, students on the waiting list will be assessed for oral proficiency in Spanish.

**In grades 1-2**: Students must score at an intermediate level of oral proficiency to be placed in the Dual Language program (as indicated by the IPT assessment).

**In grades 3-5**: Students must score at an intermediate level of oral proficiency, and a beginning level of reading and writing proficiency to be placed in Dual Language (as indicated by the IPT assessment).

Re-entries (students previously enrolled in Dual Language that have left and returned to Irving Elementary) may re-apply and be placed on the waiting list.

Newcomers from a Spanish-speaking country will be admitted on a case by case basis.
Placement Process

Applicants must submit a completed application form. Applicants outside of the Irving boundary area will also submit a completed Request to Transfer form.

Upon receipt of the completed application, the Dual Language staff will determine:

- Primary language (application review and/or additional interview)
- Confirmation of sibling enrollment in dual language program

Applicants with siblings enrolled in Dual Language will be placed on the Enrolled list based on primary language.

All other applicants will be placed on a Lottery list based on primary language. Applicants will be assigned a number in the order that they are received. A computer-generated number randomizer will be used to select the students for placement in the Dual Language Program. The waiting list will also be created using the randomizer.

The class rosters will be filled with the Enrolled List students first. Remaining openings will be filled by Approved applicants according to their position in the lottery.

Students whose first language is English will make up half of the class roster. Students whose first language is Spanish will make up the other half of the class roster. Students whose first language is other than English or Spanish will be placed on the rosters under the English category.

Acceptance letters will be sent by the end of May to the chosen applicants. The letters will include a deadline by which applicants must notify Irving Elementary of their intention. (Accept, deny)
If an accepted applicant lives outside of the Irving boundary area, their transfer request will be sent to the Director of Elementary Education office for approval.

If any applicants decline the placement offer, the next student on the waiting list will be extended the invitation to join the program. Again, a deadline to notify of intent will be included.

Applications received after the deadline will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list.

When all rosters have been filled, a letter will be sent to the applicants left on the waiting list to notify them that they did not receive a lottery placement and are on the waiting list. These applicants can choose to remove their name from the waiting list at this time, or to remain on it.
Appendix

Placement Process Visual
Dual Language Application Process

All interested parties fill out a Dual Language Application

Does the student have a sibling in the Dual Language Program?

Yes

Student's name is placed on the Approved list.

No

Student's name is placed in the lottery.

Students are enrolled in the Dual Language program. An acceptance letter is sent out to their parents by the end of May.

Students' names will be picked by a randomizer. The first 24 English-speaking and 24 Spanish-speaking students will be enrolled in the Dual Language program. The rest of the students' names will be placed on a waiting list.

* Students will be added to the program as space becomes available on a case-by-case basis.