

Framingham Public Schools Dual Language Education Programs Info Session



Bilingual Education Department



Massachusetts Association for Bilingual Education

Agenda

- ↗ Welcome and introductions
- ↗ Student and Parent presentations
- ↗ What is a Dual Language Program?
 - ↗ Definition
 - ↗ Dual Language program goals
 - ↗ Benefits of Dual Language
- ↗ What does the research say?
- ↗ What programs does FPS offer?
- ↗ Resources
- ↗ Questions

Definition-What is dual language?

- ↗ Dual Language programs foster bilingualism, biliteracy, enhanced awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity, and high levels of academic achievement through instruction in two languages
- ↗ Dual Language is an additive form of education in which students are taught literacy and content in two languages
- ↗ Dual Language programs use the target/partner language for a minimum of 50% of the instructional day
- ↗ These programs extend for at least 5 years

Source: www.dual-language.org



The 3 Pillars of Dual Language





Benefits of Bilingualism

What do you know about the benefits of Bilingualism?

Brain Research:

- Increased cognitive flexibility
- Multitasking
- Better problem solving (from multiple perspectives)
- Delays the onset of Alzheimer's



Benefits of Bilingualism



**the benefits of
a bilingual brain**

Advantages for native Portuguese/Spanish speakers/English learners

- ↗ Students achieve at the same or higher levels in **English than their peers enrolled in other English language development** programs (TBE and SEI)
- ↗ Increased sense of pride and self-esteem
- ↗ At school, students are models of proficiency in Portuguese/Spanish for other students learning Portuguese/Spanish
- ↗ At home, students develop very positive attitudes about their heritage language and cultural background and are able to continue communicating with family

Advantages for Native English Speakers

- ↗ Students achieve at the same or higher levels in English compared to their English-only speaking peers in English-only classrooms.
- ↗ Students develop very positive attitudes about students of other language and cultural backgrounds.
- ↗ Students develop very positive attitudes about their heritage language and cultural background.

Meta-Analysis studies supporting Two-Way Bilingual programming

There are several meta-analyses studies that extol the benefits and support the efficacy of Two-Way bilingual programming and learning in two languages, most notably the meta-analyses of Thomas and Collier (2002) and Collier and Thomas (2004):

Collier, V., & Thomas, W. (2004). The astounding effectiveness of dual language education for all. NABE Journal of Research and Practice, 2:1(Winter), 20.

Thomas, W., & Collier, V. (2002). A national study of school effectiveness for language minority students' long-term academic achievement.

http://www.thomasandcollier.com/assets/2002_thomas-and-collier_2002-final-report.pdf



Portuguese in the Classroom



Where are FPS dual language programs? (2019–2020)

Spanish

Barbieri Elementary K-5
Brophy Elementary K-1

Walsh Middle School 6-8

Framingham High School 9-12

Portuguese

Potter Road Elementary K-2
Wilson Elementary K-1

Cameron Middle School
(anticipated 2023-2024 SY)

Framingham High School 9-12
(anticipated 2026-2027 SY)

What model is each program following (secondary)?

Walsh Middle School

- ↗ 2 courses-Spanish Language Arts, Social Studies (in Spanish)
- ↗ Remainder of schedule integrated in English general education classes

Framingham High School

- ↗ Spanish Language & Literature (ACP)
- ↗ Spanish Lang/Lit (Honors)
- ↗ Spanish Language; Spanish Literature (AP)
- ↗ Heritage--Spanish Language & Culture
- ↗ Internships, Community Service, Electives

How do I enroll my child?

Enrollment in dual language programs is open to every new kindergarten student. Seats are filled through a lottery process. In order to preserve the integrity of this program, parents are asked to carefully consider both the appropriateness of and their desire for this choice for their child, as well as the long-term commitment that is required. **(A Letter of Commitment must be signed in order to be considered for the lottery).**

Parent Role in Dual Language

- ↗ Parents as first teachers
- ↗ Parents as learners
- ↗ Parents as advocates
- ↗ Parents as partners





Parents as first teachers

↗ I'm not bilingual, so how do I help my child with homework?

↗ **Help in your native language**

- ↗ Read stories with your child in your native language
- ↗ Tell stories in your native language
- ↗ Ask questions about their school work in your native language
- ↗ Have your child do the talking and language thinking



Dual Language Education of New Mexico





Parents as first teachers

- How do I support BOTH program languages and cultures?
 - **Model a positive attitude about being bilingual and bicultural**
 - Take an interest in the new language and culture
 - Don't put your child on the spot with vocabulary and "how do you say" questions.
 - Instead, ask them to teach you something new they have learned
 - Language is acquired in authentic contexts
 - Encourage cross-cultural friendships
 - Birthday parties, sports teams, etc.





Parents' commitment

- ↗ **Know what you're committing to**
- ↗ This is a long-term commitment
- ↗ Don't worry- learning a language takes time
 - ↗ Conversational language – 2 to 3 years
 - ↗ Academic language – 5 to 7 years
 - ↗ **Remember & Celebrate: Your child is learning grade level content AND TWO LANGUAGES!**



What can I do as a parent to be a partner in our school community?

- ↗ Volunteer in the classroom
- ↗ Share aspects of home language and culture
- ↗ Attend parent education workshops
- ↗ Participate in dual language family social gatherings
- ↗ Serve as chaperone for class trips
- ↗ Keep in touch with other dual language parents

Web resources

Framingham Public Schools Bilingual Department Website

iteachduallanguage.blogspot.com

dlenm.org

multilingualmania.com

colorincolorado.org

http://www.uniteforliteracy.com/

https://www.duolingo.com/

http://www.cal.org/twi/initialliteracy.pdf

https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/11/29/497943749/6-potential-brain-benefits-of-bilingual-education

Questions and Answers

