

**How can students who speak only English learn when they're instructed for up to 90 percent of the day in a language they don't understand?**

Dual Immersion programs are based on years of research, which demonstrates that students perform as well as or better on English tests than their English-speaking peers who have been instructed only in English. Dual Immersion teachers are specially trained to make the information meaningful through the use of visuals, objects, gestures, and specialized instructional strategies. And, the program encourages students to help each other.

**Do students in Dual Immersion programs learn the same curriculum as students in English Language Mainstream programs?**

Absolutely! The standards and curriculum taught in Dual Immersion classrooms are the same for all students in the San Bernardino City Unified School District. The only difference is the language of instruction.

**Will my child learn English in this program?**

All students are provided English-language instruction daily. Students are taught reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in English and Spanish, resulting in mastery of both languages. Instruction in one language connects to and builds upon instruction taught in the other language.



**Is Dual Immersion a good option for my gifted child?**

Yes, gifted students excel in Dual Immersion due to the enriching nature of the program. Dual Immersion teachers receive training and certification to provide specialized instruction for students who are gifted and talented.

**How can parents, especially those who do not speak Spanish, support their child in the program?**

All parents are encouraged to participate in their child's education, and Dual Immersion programs require that families take an active role. High levels of parental involvement and communication are necessary in order to maintain an active parent-school partnership. You can support your child by reading in English and/or Spanish daily. You are encouraged to read to your child in the language in which you are the strongest. Listen to your child read in either language. Ask questions about what they're learning in class.

**HOW TO ENROLL**

**San Bernardino City Unified School District**

*For more information, please contact:  
Language Assessment Center  
(909) 891-1037  
[www.sbcusd.com/lac](http://www.sbcusd.com/lac)*

*Or*

*Visit the SBCUSD Welcoming Resource Center  
781 West 2nd Street,  
San Bernardino, CA 92410*

**SAN BERNARDINO CITY  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Making Hope Happen*



*Dual Immersion  
Program*

SAN BERNARDINO'S  
*Multilingual Initiative*  
Investing in Our Future Today

*Providing opportunities for all SBCUSD students to graduate high school with multilingual and multicultural capacities, college, career, and 21st century ready, and prepared to live their lives to their fullest potential.*

## OVERVIEW

*Dual Immersion* is a unique and enriching educational program that promotes bilingualism and biliteracy in English and Spanish starting in transitional kindergarten and kindergarten. Students benefit from the same rigorous, standards-based instruction as students in English Language Mainstream programs. They will learn to read, write, and communicate effectively in Spanish and English while achieving high levels of academic success. Dual Immersion gives students the bilingual skills and cross-cultural competencies needed to succeed in our multicultural society and global economy.

## WHAT IS DUAL IMMERSION?

The *Dual Immersion* program brings native English speakers and native Spanish speakers together in a classroom where they learn side by side with the goal of becoming bilingual, biliterate, and culturally competent students.

The San Bernardino City Unified School District's Dual Immersion program was established in 2000. The program serves students starting in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade. The goal of Dual Immersion is for students to remain in the program through 12th grade and graduate with the prestigious state Seal of Biliteracy. Students in third, fifth, and eighth grade also have an opportunity to receive the District's Biliteracy Achievement Award.

Under the 90/10 Dual Immersion model, students enter the program transitional kindergarten or kindergarten, where the instructional day consists of 90 percent Spanish and 10 percent English instruction. Each subsequent year, Spanish-language instruction is reduced and English-language instruction is increased by 10 percent. As students enter the upper grades, the program balances out at 50 percent Spanish and 50 percent English.



*Dual Immersion* is thriving at these District schools:

- Anton Elementary
- Belvedere Elementary
- Brown Elementary
- Gomez Elementary
- Jones Elementary
- Lankershim Elementary
- Lincoln Elementary
- Marshall Elementary
- Monterey Elementary
- Muscoy Elementary
- Bonnie Oehl Elementary
- Riley College PREP Academy
- Rio Vista Elementary
- Roberts Elementary
- Urbita Elementary
- Wilson Elementary
- Bing Wong Elementary
- Arrowview Middle School
- Paakuma' K--8 School
- San Bernardino High School

## BENEFITS

- All students have the opportunity to be language models in their primary language, fostering a climate of collaboration and cross-cultural understanding and respect.
- Dual immersion students develop stronger interpersonal skills that help them appreciate and respect other cultures.
- Students begin preparing to enter a growing multilingual, global society.
- Students are exposed to challenging and accelerated instruction.
- Creativity and analytical thinking are developed.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Are there any requirements to enroll my child in a Dual Immersion program?

The Dual Immersion program is open to all students. Parents are required to attend an informational meeting before enrolling students in the program. Students who have not been previously enrolled in Dual Immersion may request, through the Language Assessment Center, to be assessed for entry into the program.

### Why is SBCUSD using the 90/10 Dual Immersion model?

The first number refers to the amount of instructional time initially spent in Spanish starting in transitional kindergarten or kindergarten. The second number refers to English. In a 90/10 model the amount of Spanish decreases yearly as English increases until there is a 50/50 balance of the languages, generally in grades four through six. Research shows the 90/10 model creates higher levels of bilingualism.

### When should students enter the Dual Immersion Program?

All students can enter the program in transitional kindergarten or kindergarten. Native English speakers can enter the program up until the middle of first grade, pending a language assessment to ensure appropriate placement. Native Spanish speakers can enter the program in any grade, pending a language assessment to ensure appropriate placement.

### How long should my child remain in the Dual Immersion program?

Research shows it takes a minimum of 5 to 7 years to develop high levels of proficiency in a second language. It is recommended that students minimally remain in the program until the end of the sixth grade. Ideally, students should remain in the program through 12th grade.