



Washington Dual Immersion FAQs

What is Dual Immersion and what does the model look like at Washington?

Dual Immersion is an RBUSD program offered only at Washington Elementary School. Dual Immersion provides a choice for parents who want their children to become fluent in two languages while developing academic skills in the core subjects. The program model at Washington is:

- A 90/10 model which means the students start off in kindergarten with 90% of the instruction being in Spanish, and 10% in English
- In first grade it progresses to 80/20
- In second grade, 70/30
- In third grade 60/40
- And in fourth and fifth grade 50/50

Dual Immersion Program Goals:

- To develop language proficiency in English and Spanish for native English speakers and Spanish speakers
- To ensure academic excellence by increasing scholastic achievement in two languages as outlined in the School District's core curriculum
- To cultivate understanding and appreciation of other cultures and to strengthen positive attitudes among students and California's diverse communities
- To foster the development of leadership and self confidence
- To develop a sense of respect and responsibility for ourselves, our school, our community, our country and our world
- To empower parents to become active participants in their children's education

How does my child get into the Dual Immersion Program at Washington?

In order to be in the Dual Immersion program at Washington, you must first register at your child's home school in RBUSD. At the time of registration, you should request a School-of-Choice form as well as a Dual Immersion Application. The program is intended to have 50% native Spanish Speakers, and 50% English speaking students. You must indicate if your child is Spanish speaking so they can be scheduled for an assessment in the spring to determine if they are proficient enough to be considered as a native Spanish speaker. All applications/registrations for the program must be complete and submitted to the Office of Educational Services by **March 31st** to be entered into the lottery for the program. There are separate lotteries for the English speaking spots and the Spanish speaking spots. The lottery is held at the school district's office, upstairs in the Board of Education Room and parents are welcome to attend. It will take place in early May and the date will be posted



on the District website. We do, on occasion, accept out-of-district Spanish speaking students into the program, but only after district residents have been given the opportunity for enrollment in the program. The lottery for out-of-district students is held in June.

Does my child have to start the program in Kindergarten?

Yes, we only accept students that enter as kindergarten students. We do accept students that have moved into the District as transfers into the program, after kindergarten, only if space is available and the student has been previously enrolled in a Spanish dual immersion program. Documentation of participation in that program is required. We also require that students be assessed by one of our teachers to test their Spanish proficiency before being accepted to the program. Families must provide proof of residency in RBUSD in order to be placed in the program. There are no exceptions.

If my child is in a Dual Immersion Program, can they transfer into the Washington Dual Immersion?

Please see above.

What if I do not speak Spanish? How will I be able to help my child with homework and their learning?

We have many families that do not speak any Spanish at home. The students are still able to excel in the program and our teachers are happy to provide tips and resources to families so they can best support their children throughout the program. We also do encourage families to embrace and support the bilingual and bicultural experience of their children through participation in school and community events and programs.

When are the dual immersion tours for potential incoming families?

The tours will be hosted on February 7th and 21st, 2020 Please call the Washington front office starting the week of January 27th to sign up for a tour. These are the only dates we will have tours for the upcoming school year.

Is there an information session I can attend to learn more about the Dual Immersion Program at Washington?

Yes! We have an information session scheduled on January 29th at 2:45 in the Washington Elementary School Cafeteria. This is hosted by our Dual Immersion kindergarten teachers and they will be able to review the breakdown of the program and answer any questions families may have.

What are the benefits of a dual immersion program?



In addition to being bilingual and biliterate, research has shown that students who are in bilingual education excel in all academic areas, especially in math and science. The acquisition of two languages cause their brain to develop differently than their monolingual peers, making them more adept at problem solving. Our students excel on the statewide assessments and they also develop a greater cultural awareness and understanding.

What happens when students finish the program at the end of fifth grade?

Students who attend Washington Elementary School automatically matriculate to Adams Middle School. While not a 50/50 dual immersion program, students at Adams do have the opportunity to enroll in social studies classes taught in Spanish as well as Spanish Humanities elective courses; thus 30% of their total instructional experience will be conducted in Spanish.