



Bilingual Education Program

English Learner Services

What is the purpose of the bilingual education program?

Bilingual education programs are designed to make grade level academic content accessible to English learners through the development of academic skills in the child's primary language and English. The academic, linguistic, and cultural background of English learners is used as the platform for acquiring grade level content material in the primary language and in English.

What are the four state-approved bilingual education program models?

In Texas, there are four state-approved bilingual education program models:

Program Model Type	Goal	Instruction
Dual Language Two-Way	English learners attain full proficiency (including grade-level literacy skills) in their primary language as well as English to participate equitably in school.	English learners receive instruction in literacy and academic content in their primary language as well as English from teachers certified in bilingual/ESL education. At least half of instruction is delivered in the students' primary language for duration of the program.
Dual Language One-Way		
Transitional Bilingual Late Exit	English learners utilize their primary language as a resource while acquiring full proficiency in English to participate equitably in school.	English learners receive instruction in literacy and academic content in their primary language as well as English from teachers certified in bilingual education. As the child acquires English, the amount of instruction provided in the primary language decreases until full proficiency in English is attained.
Transitional Bilingual Early Exit		

What are the benefits of bilingual education?

Academic instruction is provided by teachers who

- are proficient in the primary language of your child, as well as English; and
- are trained in second language acquisition methods and how to adapt instruction to meet the specific language needs of your child.

Research indicates that children who participate in a bilingual education program

- build on a literacy foundation in their primary language to acquire stronger cognitive and academic skills in English;
- are more likely to develop a bicultural identity, become biliterate, and have higher self-esteem; and
- may use their bilingual skills to access competitive job opportunities in a global world.

What instruction will my child receive in a bilingual education program?

Your child will develop language and literacy skills in his/her primary language as a resource for acquiring English. He/she will develop listening, and speaking skills in English through the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) in conjunction with grade level academic content in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for all content areas, including language arts, math, science, and social studies. Your child will be proficient in your child's primary language and English and is specially trained to meet your child's language needs. Instruction should consider your child's unique learning experiences, instill a positive identity, and honor the culture and experiences of your child.

How can parents support their child who participates in a bilingual education program?

Parents can support their child's acquisition of English by providing opportunities at home to practice their primary language and English, understand the benefits of primary language development on second language development and the positive transfer of skills from one language to another.

Some examples of parent activities to support English language acquisition include

- reading and engaging in conversations with your child in your primary language, and English, to support development of your child's oral language and literacy skills in the primary language and in English; and
- encouraging your child to achieve by providing him/her a place to study and showing interest in his/her school work.

Ways to support the bilingual education program include

-