



Walla Walla Public Schools

Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates



ELEMENTARY DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

As a parent, how can I help my child in a dual immersion setting?

- » Continue reading to your child in the language spoken at home.
- » Maintain close communication with your child's teacher about progress and ways to support at home.
- » Be patient and enthusiastic. It takes time for a child to feel comfortable in a classroom setting being taught in a different language.

If Spanish is the home language, how will my child acquire English language?

Between kindergarten to 2nd grade, students who have a dominant language other than English receive support during English Language Development (ELD) instruction. Starting in 3rd grade, English language is modeled during ELD time and through other academic subjects using language acquisition strategies.

PARTICIPATING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- » Edison
- » Green Park
- » Sharpstein

MORE INFORMATION:

- » Equity and Dual Programs Dept.
Walla Walla Public Schools
364 S. Park St., Walla Walla, WA
Office: 509-527-3000
website: wwps.org
- » Center of Applied Linguistics
website: cal.org
- » Colorín Colorado
website: colorincolorado.org
- » National Association for Bilingual Education
website: nabe.org
- » The Association of Two-Way and Dual Language Education
website: atdle.org

WHAT IS A DUAL IMMERSION PROGRAM?

Dual Language is a form of bilingual education in which students receive instruction in two languages. Dual immersion programs in Walla Walla integrate English dominant students with Spanish dominant students, to achieve bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural outcomes for all.



WHY DUAL LANGUAGE?

- » The ability to develop the highest level of proficiency in a second language is greater if you start at an early age.
- » Research shows that dual immersion students typically outperform English dominant students in the classroom by the end of their elementary years.
- » Students develop proficiency in both languages and have increased cultural awareness. The ability to interpret cross-cultural interactions is crucial in today's world.
- » Students benefit from the ability to communicate with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROGRAM?

- » Academic instruction is delivered in English and Spanish.
- » The instructional model begins in Kindergarten with 80% of instruction in Spanish.
- » As students progress through grades, the amount of English instruction increases.
- » Students learn to read and write in Spanish first.
- » Teachers use a predetermined language depending on the subject.
- » All program, curricular, and instructional decisions are based on current research.
- » A bilingual, biliterate and bicultural environment is supported and encouraged.
- » Rigorous core academic curriculum is aligned to Washington State Learning Standards.

The Walla Walla Public Schools' Dual Immersion Program begins in kindergarten where students spend the majority of the day learning through Spanish instruction. The percentage of English instruction increases as students progress through the program.

GOALS



GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

- » Bilingualism and biliteracy.
- » High academic achievement in both program languages.
- » Sociocultural competence.

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One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.

-Frank Smith

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