Dual Language High School
FAQs for U-46 Parents

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION

Q: Why a Dual Language (DL) Program at the High School (HS) level in School District U-46?

As a dual language district, School District U-46 is committed to providing a PreK-12 Dual Language Program. This trajectory allows our students the opportunity to develop as bilingual, biliterate, and multicultural citizens in our global society, as was established in the 80:20 Dual Language Project Charter. This strategically developed plan/charter was initiated during the 2009-2010 school year in collaboration with different members of our educational community. In addition to this charter, School District U-46's Board of Education adopted the 80:20 Dual Language Policy in July 2014, which includes dual language programming from preschool through 12th grade.

Q: What are the school sites for the Dual Language Program at the High School Level?

In an effort to provide our incoming freshmen with the opportunity to have access to their home schools as they enter high school, all five high school sites have been selected: Bartlett HS, Elgin HS, Larkin HS, South Elgin HS, and Streamwood HS.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Q: What is the instructional program model for the Dual Language Program at the High School level?

Please see information regarding the instructional model by clicking HERE.

Q: Why offer Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies in Spanish?

The U-46 DL program strives to provide students with a balance of exposure in Spanish and English across the content areas in order to develop bilingualism and biliteracy. The PreK-12 language allocation was strategically and intentionally developed collaboratively in order to serve this purpose and to ensure academic language development across the content areas in both languages. In the case of full-time ELs, some Spanish classes (e.g., social studies and health) comply with ISBE regulations.

Q: What is the curriculum for the DL content area classes?

All content area classes follow the adopted U-46 curricula for each specific subject area.

Q: Are the dual language classes in Spanish going to be available at the Honors level?

Yes, they will be available at the honors level.

Q: Will DL students take English Language Arts and Spanish Language Arts at the same time?

Yes, all DL students in the program will be required to take Spanish Language Arts and English Language Arts every year at their grade level.

WITHDRAWALS

Q: What is the withdrawal procedure for Dual Language students?

If parents wish to withdraw their child from the High School DL Program, they need to communicate their decision to the MME Department Assistant Principal or Lead teacher at their child's high school to ensure that there is understanding about the process and implications for such a decision. If, after meeting with the MME Department Assistant Principal or Lead, the decision is made to move forward with the withdrawal, parents will have to submit a letter or email, signed and dated, to the school communicating their decision.

Q: Will students who withdrew from the program previously, for instance, in middle school, be allowed to enroll in the high school dual language program?

Students who were not enrolled in the middle school dual language program will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the MME Department in collaboration with the school.

ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Q: What assessments will DL students need to take?
DL students will take the same assessments as other U-46 high school students in the general education program, in addition to any MME/Dual Language required assessments.

DISTRICT ACADEMIES AND/OR HIGH SCHOOL CAREER PATHWAYS

Q: Do the DL students have to choose between an Academy and the DL high school program?
Effective school year 23-24, all U-46 Magnet Academies are compatible with the Dual Language Program, and consequently, dual language students may remain in the Dual Language Program and participate in any of the U-46 Magnet Academies if selected.

STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCIDENCE LANGUAGES

Q: Will there be programmatic changes for students from low-incidence languages, in other words, students whose native language is not Spanish?
No. English Learners eligible students who speak a language other than Spanish, such as Polish, Urdu, Tagalog, etc., will continue to receive language educational services for which they are eligible, in accordance with the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) regulations. However, starting in 2018-2019, incoming freshmen students from low-incidence languages who accept English Learners services will be served at South Elgin HS or Bartlett HS.

SPECIALIZED STUDENT SERVICES

Q: What classes will DL special education students take in dual language?
Students who have IEPs and are currently enrolled in the dual language program at the middle school level would be expected to continue in the Dual Language Program in high school unless otherwise noted in their IEP, in which case, placement in content area classes would be determined based on identified IEP goals. Additionally, depending on the specific recommendation from the multidisciplinary/IEP team on specific student goals, students may be placed in a co-taught model, which consists of a DL general education teacher along with a special education classroom teacher. Given that all students present with different strengths and needs, differentiation of instruction will be expected of dual language teachers as well for academic and language development. Teachers are also encouraged to consult with the students' case managers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/OTHER

Q: How can I learn more about dual language education and the implementation of the Dual Language Program in U-46?
Current and updated dual language information can be found on the district's website (click HERE), which includes the following: research, updated events and information, links to dual language websites, resources, and communication to educators and parents.

Q: Are there any recognitions for students in the DL Program at the high school level?
Yes. On this site, you can learn more about them. DL students may be able to earn the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy (SSoB), a nationally recognized credential that guarantees students two full years of collegiate language credit. Students earning the SSoB receive an embossed seal on their diploma, a medal to wear as academic regalia for graduation, and an indication on their transcript. Additionally, DL students may choose to participate in the DL Portfolio Certification, which is awarded to students who create a dual language portfolio and complete all the required components. Lastly, DL Seniors who graduate from the Dual Language Program are recognized during the *Día de logros* celebration, during which they are awarded a certificate of completion and a stole for them to wear at the graduation ceremony.

Q: Whom can I contact for additional information at the district level?
For additional information, please contact the MME Department at 847-888-5000 ext. 5331 or 5332.