



Two-Way Dual Language Program  
Guidelines  
2023-2024

## **Two-Way Dual Language Program Information**

The Two-Way Dual Language Program is offered at Caldwell Elementary in grades K-5.

Two-way immersion is a form of dual language that combines students from two language groups while providing instruction in both languages. The (K-5) classes at Caldwell are comprised of approximately 50% native English speakers and 50% native Spanish speakers. Students learn the academic curriculum through both languages simultaneously. Students serve as language models for each other, while accelerating their learning.

The primary goal of MISD's Two-Way Dual Language Program is to allow students to realize the full benefits of bilingualism which include enhanced cognitive ability, increased academic achievement, heightened multicultural appreciation and understanding, and a competitive edge in the increasingly global society of the 21st century.

Following the dual language evaluation report in March 2017, the district implemented a dual decision framework to look at individual students and their continuation or discontinuation of two-way dual participation. Multiple assessment measures, as well as teacher and parent input, are considered when deciding a student's continuation or discontinuation of the dual language program. Ultimately, we want to ensure that each student receives the best possible educational outcome and for some students, this means discontinuing their participation in a two-way dual language program.

In efforts to further ensure success and cohesion in this program, McKinney ISD implemented a competitive application process for prospective kindergartners in the fall of 2020 and will continue to utilize moving forward. The process includes an evaluation in the student's native language. This decision was based on a review of the existing program as well as reviewing policies from other area school districts that offer such a program.

### **Goals of the Program**

- High Academic Achievement
- Bilingualism
- Bi-literacy
- Multiculturalism

### **Program Information**

- Implementation began in 2010-11 with Kindergarten students at Caldwell Elementary School.
- Per state requirements, all teachers providing instruction in a two-way dual language program must be bilingual education certified for the component of the program provided in a language other than English. Additionally, all teachers must be English as a Second Language certified for the component of the program provided in English.
- The ratio of English to Spanish speakers in each class will be maintained as close to 50%/ 50% as possible per requirements set by the state.
- Class size ranges from 18-22 students per class.
- Languages are separated to benefit all students.
- MISD curriculum will be followed. It may be necessary to adjust the pacing of the curriculum to meet the unique needs of second language learners.

- MISD curriculum is enhanced with specific language objectives to accommodate the second language need.
- Students' reading, writing, and oral language are assessed in Spanish and English.
- Grades are based on assessments in the student's dominant language.
- Students participate in all district and state assessments.
- All students applying to the program must be available for assessment prior to the beginning of school.
- Parents are not required to be bilingual for student participation in the program.

### **Enrollment**

- This is a bilingual program funded by the state and federal government and therefore must adhere to all requirements. The enrollment ratio of native English speakers (SL – Spanish Learners) to native Spanish speakers (EL – English Learners) as set by the State is 50% native English speakers to 50% native Spanish speakers.
- Priority will be given to students who meet the criteria for the two-way dual language program and are Caldwell-zoned students and/or siblings of students currently enrolled in the two-way dual language program. If there are available seats, transfer students will be selected through a lottery system.
- Transportation is only provided to Caldwell zoned students who qualify for the service.
- Siblings may attend Caldwell if space allows (a standard school transfer form must be filled out once a student's name is drawn in the lottery).
- Caldwell zoned students in K- 5th grade who are not participating in the program will have the opportunity to attend a monolingual classroom at Caldwell.

### **Contact Information**

District Office:

English Learner Support

469-302-7710

Zabdi Gonzalez, Sr. Director of English Learner Support [zgonzalez@mckinnevisd.net](mailto:zgonzalez@mckinnevisd.net)

Carmen De Los Santos, Elementary Coordinator [cdelossantos@mckinnevisd.net](mailto:cdelossantos@mckinnevisd.net)

Maria Gonzales, Elementary Coordinator [mgonzales@mckinnevisd.net](mailto:mgonzales@mckinnevisd.net)

Campus:

Caldwell Elementary

469-302-5500

Karla Massey, Principal [kmasssey@mckinnevisd.net](mailto:kmasssey@mckinnevisd.net)

Zoraya Palmer, Assistant Principal [zpalmer@mckinnevisd.net](mailto:zpalmer@mckinnevisd.net)