

Oakley Union Elementary School District
Spanish Dual Immersion Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why Spanish Dual Immersion (SDI)?

There has been interest in creating a Spanish Dual Immersion (SDI) Program in Oakley Union Elementary School District for many years. The OUESD School Board has set the opening of the program as one of their goals.

What are the goals and benefits of Spanish Dual Immersion?

There are three goals for students in Spanish Dual Immersion.

1. ***Bilingualism and Biliteracy*** - Children will leave elementary school being able to fluently communicate in Spanish and English including reading, writing, listening and speaking.
2. ***High Achievement*** - Children will achieve high levels of academic vocabulary and achievement in Spanish and English.
3. ***Sociocultural Competence*** - Children will learn about and appreciate the cultural heritage of our community including traditions for Spanish and English speakers.

Research shows that children who attend SDI programs have many cognitive benefits including improved memory, increased problem solving, as well as greater creativity and flexible thinking. These children develop strong social connections and cultural awareness. Children who attend SDI programs perform better in English than their peers by the end of elementary school in addition to their strong literacy skills in Spanish.

Where will the Spanish Dual Immersion Program be located?

SDI will be located at Laurel Elementary. This decision was based upon staffing, leadership, and available classrooms for the development of the program as it will grow over the years.

What are the hours of the Spanish Dual Immersion Program?

SDI is a regular school program, not an enrichment or after school program. The hours for SDI will be the same as other Laurel Elementary students.

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- TK Grade: 8:15am to 11:55am daily.
- Kindergarten: 8:15am to 1:15pm Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.
8:15am to 12:15pm on Wednesdays or other
adjusted/minimum days

For what grades is Spanish Dual Immersion offered?

SDI will open in the 2025-26 school year for TK and Kindergarten only.
Each year the program will expand as this initial group ages.

School Year	Grades in SDI Program
2025-26	TK, K
2026-27	TK, K, 1
2027-28	TK, K, 1, 2
2027-28	TK, K, 1, 2, 3
2028-29	TK, K, 1, 2, 3, 4
2029-30	TK, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Initial enrollment will generally be limited to TK and Kindergarten. Children entering the program at other grade levels, once available, will be based upon assessment of the child's proficiency in Spanish and English in comparison to the expectations for students at that grade level.

Is there limited enrollment in the Spanish Dual Immersion Program?

Yes, enrollment will be limited based upon the number of classes at each grade level. For 2025-26, there will be up to 48 TK students and 48 Kindergarten students consisting of two classes at each grade level. Each class will have a balance of students who speak Spanish at home and students who speak English or another language at home.

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Can children who only speak Spanish enroll in the Spanish Dual Immersion Program?

Yes, the goal is that each class contains 50% of the students who speak Spanish and 50% of the students who speak English or another language.

What is the enrollment process for Spanish Dual Immersion?

Families complete the enrollment process at their resident school. During enrollment, families will complete the Spanish Dual Language Immersion Language Program Interest Survey. Families who express interest will be invited to informational meetings to confirm their interest. If the number of students in each grade level and language exceeds the available spots in SDI, a lottery will be held amongst all interested families for that grade level and language.

What is the enrollment timeline and process for Spanish Dual Immersion?

Families who indicated an interest in enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year (Grades TK/K) have been invited to an SDI Enrollment/Information Meeting the week of April 14, 2025. If families want to finalize their enrollment they will be asked to complete [this Commitment to Enroll Survey](#) no later than Friday, April 18, 2025 (Space will determine if a lottery will need to take place).

Families will receive follow up information regarding the status of their enrollment no later than Friday, April 25th.

If my child attends the Spanish Dual Immersion Program, can siblings in different grade levels also attend Laurel Elementary?

If a child is enrolled in Spanish Dual Immersion (SDI), the family will need to apply for an Intra-district Transfer for any siblings to attend the program. Additional information about the process and procedures for Intra-district transfer can be found [here](#) on the OUESD website.

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What if my child has Special Education or other special needs?

Special Education, 504, and other school based services are available to students in the Spanish Dual Immersion Program. The determination of whether the Spanish Dual Immersion Program is appropriate for a child with Special Education needs is made with the child's IEP or 504 team.

What are the teacher requirements for Spanish Dual Immersion?

Teachers in SDI have to meet the Commission on Teacher Credentialing requirements to teach in a Spanish Dual Immersion program.

What is the curriculum for the Spanish Dual Immersion Program?

Curriculum for SDI is California Standards Based. Wherever possible the students will have the same curriculum as our English classes but in Spanish. Some of OUESD's adopted curriculum is not available in Spanish so a different curriculum may need to be selected. Below is a chart indicating the curriculum for specific content areas.

Grade	Spanish Language Arts	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	English Language Arts/ELD
TK	Frog Street	Frog Street	Frog Street	Frog Street	Frog Street
K	<i>Being selected</i>	Eureka Math ²	TWIG	StoryWorks	Reach for Reading

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What is the percentage of instruction in each language at each grade level?

Grade	Spanish	English
TK	90%	10%
K	85%	15%
1	80%	20%
2	70%	30%
3	60%	40%
4	50%	50%
5	50%	50%

What languages are used to teach each subject?

With OUESD's SDI program beginning in 2025-26 with TK and Kindergarten, we have determined the content taught in each language for these grades and First Grade. We will be forming a SDI Leadership Team Committee which will consist of teachers, staff and parents to collaborate on decisions about which content area will be taught in which language children in other grades. This Committee will engage in discussions around best practices and research based data.

Grade	Percentage Spanish	Content	Percentage English	Content
TK	90%	Spanish Language Arts Math Science/Social Studies	10%	English Language Arts English Language Development PE/Library/Music
K	90%	Spanish Language Arts Math Science/Social Studies	10%	English Language Arts English Language Development PE/Library/Music

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Are there resources for families to support their child if the family only speaks English?

We will provide resources for families to support their child as they learn Spanish and English. [This document](#) from another school district provides resources for families in many content areas.

At any point, will children enrolled in Spanish Dual Immersion be behind in comprehension of English compared to their peers in English-only classes?

The curriculum implemented in the dual language classrooms will be an OUESD and California aligned curriculum taught through supportive, differentiated, and interactive teaching strategies. This will ensure that children learn the academic content while developing the Spanish and English language skills.

Children enrolled in SDI will receive their primary language arts instruction in Spanish in the early grades. They will have English language arts and English Language Development instruction. The English language arts instruction will not be the same as the students in our mainstream classes. Instruction in English will increase each year through elementary school until students have 50% of their instruction in English and 50% of their instruction in Spanish.

Research shows that children in dual language programs perform higher than their peers in English if they remain in SDI for the entire elementary career.

Will being enrolled in Spanish Dual Immersion make it difficult for my child to learn proper English?

No, research shows children in dual language programs reach high levels of proficiency in both languages.

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What happens if my child is struggling in the Spanish Dual Immersion Program?

Support and intervention will be provided to children in SDI as is done for all children in our District. Children will receive support in the classroom and additional support as needed. Teachers and parents will work together to determine what support can be provided at school and home to best serve our students.

Can I take my child out of the program?

Since children progress through stages of second language acquisition at various paces, caregivers of native English or English-dominant children should make a long-term commitment to SDI in order for their child to develop bilingual skills. Caregivers should communicate with the classroom teacher and the principal regularly if there are concerns about their child to determine the best support. If the concerns continue and the family still wishes to disenroll the child, a meeting with the family and District representative will be scheduled to determine the best course of action including possible disenrollment from the program.

Is there a certificate at the end of the program?

Students will receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of fifth grade. We will also be developing criteria for an Award of Bilingualism at the end of fifth grade.