

Dual Language Program Expansion Update

April 17, 2018
BOE Meeting



Outstanding Schools in an Outstanding Community

Objectives:

- To provide a rationale for dual language expansion in Spanish and French with enrollment trends
- To provide an update on enrollment projections for the 2018-2019 school year
- To provide the BOE with recommendations and next steps

Rationale for Spanish DL Expansion



- Approximately 385 students in K-5 DL in 2017-2018, and projected to increase
- In 2018-2019, anticipated to have the largest incoming group of K students who speak Spanish in the history of USD116.
 - 48 students from UECS alone, plus additional move-ins and other centers
 - Previously, the largest group had been 35-37
- Wait lists from English monolingual families in both schools and from other schools across the district.
 - 2017-2018 had the largest wait list: over 20 families between both buildings
- Larger class sizes in DL classrooms at Leal and in some classrooms at Dr W
 - Need to expand to more classrooms just for current students, not even counting incoming K students for 2018-2019



Rationale for French DL Expansion

2010-2011: n=30

2017-2018: n=100

- Need for Transitional Bilingual Programming at EC and K-5 (6-12 coming)
 - We'd prefer to move to DL rather than a self contained French TBE program
- French Speaking Parents are Highly Interested in French DL
- Wait lists from English monolingual families in both schools and from other schools across the district for Spanish/English DL, thus providing French could open up more opportunities for these families.
- 2017-2018 had the largest wait list: over 20 families

ThoughtExchange Survey Preliminary Data



599 Participants; 1,187 Thoughts Shared; 17,591 Stars/Ratings Assigned

Option A: One Dual Language School

Option B: Expand within Dr. Williams and Leal to create more DL classes where needed

Option C: Start DL in a Third School

**As part of this survey, we met with PK-5 school faculties, PTAs, and parent groups to discuss this process in person



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ThoughtExchange Survey Preliminary Data



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Of the three options, participants prefer Option C, followed by Option B. Option A was the least preferred options.

Based on this preliminary data and the overwhelming feedback from the community, the district has decided to NOT pursue option A (one Dual Language School).

We will be exploring Option B and/or C with the Board of Education moving forward.

A more detailed report and website are being created by the Thought Exchange organization with final results. No additional options came out of the report, other than an overall concern for class size reduction across the district.



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Kindergarten Connection Results

Language Speaker Enrollment

- Of the 53 projected Spanish-speaking students, 40 have registered.
 - We anticipate 6 more to register as they have siblings already enrolled in USD116
 - Historically we have had an average of 5 additional students register at Centralized Registration that were not anticipated
- 10 students, that identify French as one of their languages, have registered for Kindergarten

Spanish DL Program Applicants

- 37 students/families applied across the district
 - 18 Leal
 - 9 Dr. Williams
 - 11 Other

Recommendations & Next Steps



Spanish DL

- We do not recommend pursuing one Dual Language School
- Recommend expanding the Spanish DL program at Leal to add 1 more kindergarten classroom and 1 split level DL classroom
- Recommend expanding the Spanish DL program at Dr. Williams to add 1 more kindergarten classroom
- Additional classroom will allow more applying students to participate

French DL

- Recommend starting a French DL program in Fall 2018
 - Based on interest in this program from Yankee Ridge ThoughtExchange participants, this would be the recommended location.
 - Program design would begin immediate planning through an advisory committee.



Staffing

Spanish DL

- Currently we have hired two Spanish DL teachers for 2018-2019 to support additional need for kindergarten and additional vacancies.
- We have additional quality candidates that will be interviewed soon.

French DL

- Current French teacher and TA will be able to support French DL for 1st year of program implementation.
- Would recommend posting for French DL Parent Coordinator and French DL Interventionist.