

LANGUAGE ALLOCATION GUIDELINES FOR PRE-K
NATIVE LANGUAGE SUPPORT CLASSROOMS

Introduction

Dual Language or developmental bilingual programs, which utilize English and the students’ home language for instruction, demonstrate significant gains for English Learners (ELs). For children who speak little or no English as they begin school, bilingual instruction activates and builds upon what they know in the home language, and continues to positively influence children’s cognitive progress as they acquire new academic skills across both instructional languages (English and the student’s home language).

To support the linguistic and academic needs of Pre-K students, our district has establish native language support classes, in which classroom teachers use the native language to support English understanding and learning.

Benefits of a Pre-K Native Language Support Classroom

- Develops vocabulary mastery in both languages;
- Supports reading comprehension in both languages;
- Storybook reading and storytelling in a child’s home language promotes English vocabulary acquisition;
- Bilingually instructed children exit the “English Learner” category earlier than children who are only taught in English;
- Bilingual students exposed to shared reading and writing activities in the primary language, sustain gains in concepts of print, which transfer to the process of learning English;
- Bilingually instructed children evidence greater rates of phonemic awareness;
- The native language support teacher supports and teaches comprehension and fluency, through the use of the native language;
- Bilingual instruction helps Pre-K students feel welcomed, and provide them with the foundation for their language and literacy development.

Policy of Native Language Use During Instruction (Language Use Progression)

	Cycle I	Cycle II	Cycle III	Cycle IV
English	10% – 25%	25% -50%	50% - 75%	75% - 90%
Native Langue	75% - 90%	50% - 75%	25% -50%	10% – 25%

Note: Range of percent within each Cycle is based on progress of student’s linguistic and instructional needs.