

Diving into Dual Language by Lauren Williams

District Administration - Friday, May 17, 2013

The Tiger-Tualatin School District in Oregon is revamping their English as a Second Language program. Over a quarter of the Metzger Elementary School is comprised of English Language Learner students. Furthermore, approximately one third of the district falls into that category.

The district has opted to begin a Dual Language Program. The program consists of an 80/20 split schedule, where 80% of a student's instruction (core subjects such as reading, writing, math, and science) is given in their native language, Spanish. The remaining 20% of instruction is taught in English. The program is beginning with two kindergarten level classes, reaching approximately thirty students.

The district has begun to hire bilingual educators as a priority. It is believed that the students "can transfer the Spanish literacy skills into learning English skills."