

Dual Language Weekly Focus

Language of the Day

Language of the Day (LOD) is an important component of the Dallas ISD Dual Language Model because it places importance on both languages being learned in the classroom. Additionally, LOD gives teachers an opportunity to provide second language enrichment through classroom routines. The use of LOD fosters an awareness of the two language systems and promotes a bilingual and biliterate attitude.

LOD Usage

- During classroom transitions/ non-instructional portions of the day (between subjects, restroom breaks, lunch and recess); teachers also use LOD to give instructions during Bilingual Learning Center time
- Reading appropriate content area/ fictional literature
- Review classroom labels, student generated alphabets and word walls; extensions from those routines: rhyming games; creating lists of other words with the same letter, deletion and substitution of sounds; and counting syllables

Purpose / Benefit to Students

- Informal language development (BICS); student practice listening and responding in LOD in an informal setting
- Scaffold student learning in content areas taught in the second language; promote awareness of academic vocabulary in the target language
- Vocabulary development: labels; student generated alphabets and word walls should all contain grade appropriate vocabulary that students can use in the development of language through meaningful activities (not only repeating the words, but extending words into sentences etc.)

The entire school community is encouraged to participate in the LOD as much as possible. Non-Spanish speakers may greet classes using “Hola” or “Buenos Días, Niños” and continue their messages in English. Spanish is the LOD on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. English is the LOD on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Language of Instruction

Consistent Language of Instruction (LOI) is critical to the success of the Dallas ISD Dual Language Model. No longer is it a teacher or school decision about how much Spanish and English instruction bilingual students will receive. When adhered to, the designation of LOI by content provides a consistent program for our students from grade to grade and school to school. Keeping in mind the district goal of bilingualism and biliteracy, consistent LOI provides a framework for developing and maintaining the heritage language of the student while acquiring the second language.

Daily *Language of Instruction* by content minutes:

Math: 90 minutes in English

Science: 45 minutes in Spanish

Social Studies: 45 minutes in Spanish

Reading/Language Arts: 120 mins Span (PK-1); 60 mins Span/ 60 minutes Eng. (2nd-3rd)*

The Language of Instruction determines the Language of Assessment.