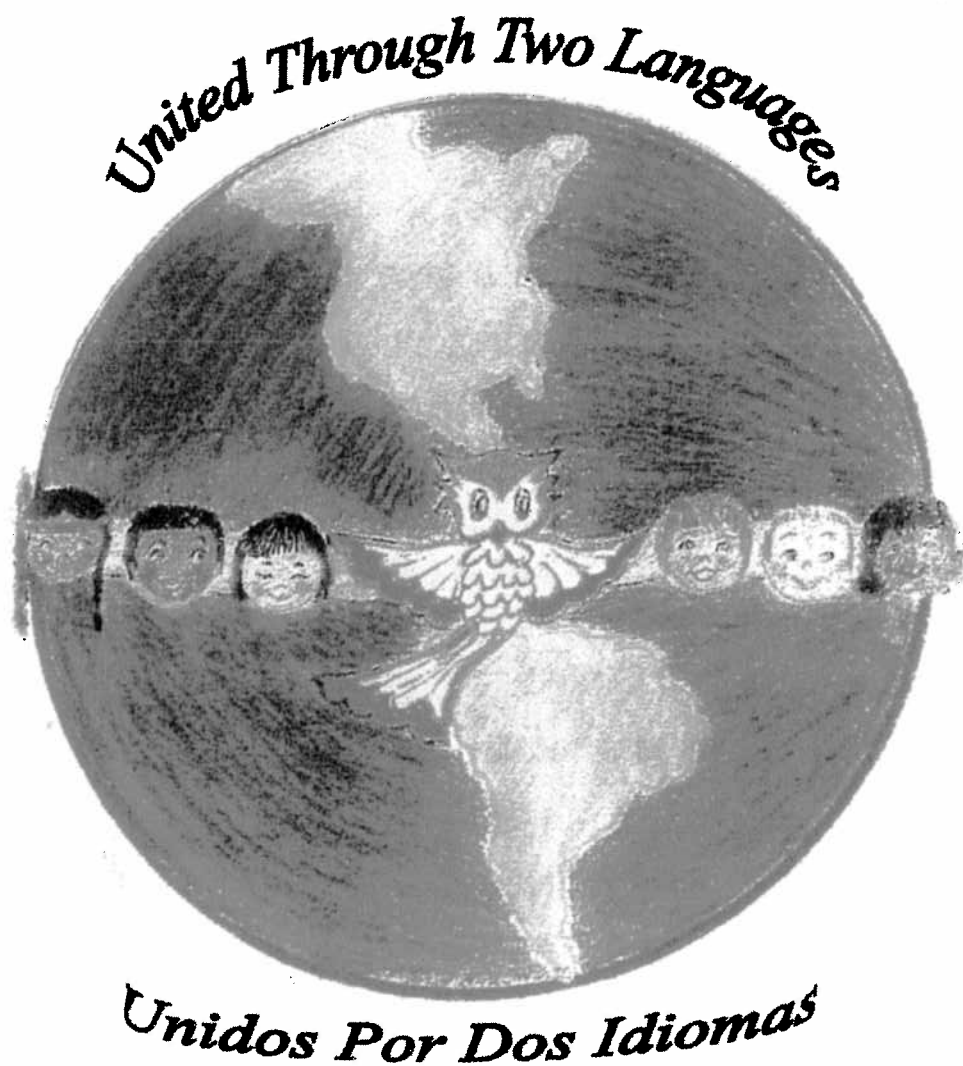


“Unidos” Dual Language Program Handbook



Providing Children Educational Opportunities That Lead to High Standards of Achievement While Becoming:

- Bilingual
- Biliterate
- Bicultural

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In Appreciation

Thank you to the committee for the time and expertise provided revising the, “Unidos” Dual Language Handbook. The Bilingual Department highly appreciates their ideas, input and enthusiasm, which will enhance the success of our Dual Language Program.

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Overview of Bridgeport's "Unidos" Dual Language Program

A Dual Language Program or Two-Way Program, is an educational model that integrates English dominant students and Spanish dominant students in a classroom environment. The focus of the program is to promote academic achievement, first and second language proficiency, and cross-cultural understanding of all students.

Bridgeport's Dual Language Program is designed to include:

- English dominant speaking students and Spanish dominant speaking students learn together in two languages (English/Spanish) to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural
- A focus on obtaining high levels of oral fluency and literacy in both languages
- Academic/Content instruction in both English and Spanish
- Spanish dominant students and English dominant students, will maintain and develop their language and culture while acquiring a second language
- An emphasis on cultural awareness, cultural appreciation, and cultural acceptance

“Unidos” Dual Language Program Goals and Objectives

Bridgeport’s Dual Language Program advocates the following goals and objectives:

Program Goals- Students Will:

- Become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural in English and Spanish
- Meet academic standards and expectations set by district and state assessment requirements
- Experience and develop positive cross-cultural skills, relationships, and attitudes toward their own culture and the culture of others

Program Objectives- Students Will:

- Develop high levels of oral and written proficiency in both English and Spanish
- Perform academically, at or above grade level, in both English and Spanish
- Develop positive cultural attitudes toward people of other language communities and demonstrate a cultural awareness, appreciation, and acceptance of diverse cultures
- Develop a positive self-image, self-esteem, and self-confidence in themselves as bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural individuals
- Develop a positive perception of being bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural, becoming good citizens and contributing to a global society

Benefits of “Unidos” Dual Language Program

Research data establishes that Dual Language programs prove to be successful and effective. **Dual Language provides students with a number of educational and personal benefits such as:**

- Engaging in unique and exciting educational opportunities for students to learn to read, write and communicate naturally while working and learning together in two languages
- Learning a second language without the risk of losing native language skills and culture
- Building students’ cross- cultural skills/awareness, and sensitivity, while enhancing their self-esteem and confidence toward learning
- Learning both academic/content and social language simultaneously, as well as meeting District and State requirements
- Gaining the valuable and marketable asset of becoming bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural, for future educational and career goals in a diverse global society
- Taking advantage of the opportunity to learn a second language at an early age, making them more likely to achieve native-like fluency

“Unidos” Dual Language Program Design

Bridgeport’s Dual Language Program begins in kindergarten. It is based on the 50/50 Dual Language model. The 50/50 model emphasizes the following characteristics:

- A student enrollment balanced by language dominance with students from both language backgrounds integrated throughout the day (Approximately 50% English proficient students and 50% Spanish proficient students)
- A balanced academic instructional program (Approximately 50% of the instruction will be in English and the other 50% in Spanish)
- Students enrolled in the Dual Language Program will have access to the full range of educational services available to all students in the Bridgeport School District
- If funding is available, a paraprofessional will be assigned and shared at each grade level

“Unidos” Dual Language Program’s Instructional Materials/Strategies

Bridgeport’s Dual Language Program follows curriculum and standards set by the Bridgeport Public School District in the following manner:

- Implements district-wide literacy-based reading and language arts, math, and other content area curricula in both English and Spanish
- Enhances curricula by utilizing texts and materials that are specific for promoting and developing dual language proficiency
- Provides effective English as a Second Language (ESL) and Spanish as a Second Language (SSL) curricula and materials to foster second language acquisition
- Adheres to and establishes high expectations and standards for student achievement, both linguistically and academically in English and Spanish

The Dual Language teaching staff will implement the most current, research-based and effective second language acquisition instructional strategies, such as:

- Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)
- Integrating language and content objectives
- Cooperative learning/thematic teaching
- Interactive and student-centered learning
- Project-based learning and assessment
- Hands on and manipulative learning activities
- Technology-based learning
- Peer Tutoring
- Learning Stations

“Unidos” Dual Language Program Student Selection Process

Bridgeport’s Dual Language student enrollment policies and procedures contain the following elements:

- A school program that gives first choice to neighborhood students and siblings already enrolled in the program
- Student enrollment is based on parental interest, permission and support
- A pre-screening process to assess the student’s oral and readiness skills in English and Spanish for language dominance
- A special effort will be made to have a balanced number of English and Spanish dominant students

“Unidos” Dual Language Student Assessment and Evaluation

All students enrolled in the Dual Language program are held to the same high expectations and standards as all students in Bridgeport Schools. Students’ achievements are based on the same evaluations and assessment measures implemented throughout the district.

In addition, Dual Language students are assessed in both English and Spanish. The following is a list of assessment instruments:

Assessment Instruments in both English & Spanish:

- Pre-Las (K&1) for Initial program placement
- Language Assessment Scales (LAS)-(1-5)
- State & District Reading Assessments
- Portfolios, Teacher-made tests, Teacher observations/notations

“Unidos” Dual Language Program’s Parental Commitment

The success of the Dual Language Program relies greatly on parental involvement and support.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Choose a Dual Language Program for their child
- Participate in the program and interact with other parents and staff
- Gain exposure to diverse cultural lifestyles, beliefs, and values
- Attend parent meetings and school functions
- Volunteer and visit their child’s classrooms on a regular basis
- Participate in school-based decision making policies and procedures
- Support and recognize the benefits for their child to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural in today’s global society