

January 16, 2019



Dear Brentwood Community:

The AISD Multilingual Education Team staff and Brentwood administrators and teachers have been in collaboration on the phasing out of the Two Way Dual Language Program (DL) and the assurance to support and ensure high quality language programming for English Learners (ELs) and Spanish Learners (SLs) in the Two Way Dual Language Program (DL) and Transitional/Late Exit Program. Currently, there is one Two Way Dual Language class in first, second, and third grade. Pre-Kinder and Kindergarten have English as a Second Language (ESL) class and Fourth and Fifth Grades have Transitional/Late Exit Programs to service ELs. This school year, our fourth and fifth grade students who participated in DL previously, could have opted to receive 90 minutes of Spanish enrichment per week (1 hour computer program, 30 minutes from a teacher who speaks Spanish) to support the transition.

Due to Brentwood's fluctuation of enrollment within DL and an ongoing decrease in enrollment of ELs, Austin ISD established an enrollment partnership. Beginning this school year, 2018-19, Brentwood partnered with Reilly Elementary as their bilingual partner school and Brentwood as Reilly's ESL partner school to provide dual language instruction where classes are more balanced near the 50/50 ELL and SLL model and to utilize highly qualified bilingual teachers for ELLs and SLLs.

The plan for the 2019-20 school year, and the continuation of discontinuing the DL program, is as follows:

- *Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First grades will have ESL classes only.
- *Second and Third Grades will either continue as Two Way DL (contingent upon enrollment remaining steady for the DL classes, and non-DL classes' ability to sustain state ratio for Teacher: Student which is 1:22) or EL students will be serviced in a late exit program and SLLs will be in ESL, non DL classes.
- *Fourth grade and Fifth DL students will be serviced in ESL, non DL classes.

The district will continue to honor the commitment of providing DL programming for students who are currently participating in DL at Brentwood as noted above, and work with parents to consider other schools that offer DL. Please note that the priority transfer window is open through January 31, 2019. If you are a family enrolled in a DL classroom, please communicate with your child's teacher and/or Ms. Laroche if you are considering transferring or leaving. This will allow us to communicate to other families the projections for whether a DL class will continue or dissolve.

We are committed to teaching all students and providing transparency during this process. Brentwood does not want to see any families leave, but does want to honor a family's desire to pursue a bilingual education for their children. Please feel free to contact us for more information and support at the contacts below.

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