

World Language Immersion Program FAQ's – October 2016

Q: How many students are currently enrolled in the Language Immersion Program?

543 students in the Spanish Program and 260 students are enrolled in the Chinese Program, making a total of 803 students currently enrolled in the Language Immersion Program. This is 35% of the K-4 enrollment in the school district.

Q: Why does the school need donations for the Language Immersion Program?

The Language Immersion Program is an optional program that has added costs on top of what is provided by the school district. We are working to obtain other funding for this program including grants, legislation, and other avenues to fund the program. Parent donations have been a big part of the plan to support this program.

Q: How do other states fund this program?

Most other states fund programs similar to ours, primarily through state legislation and grants. Part of our long term plan is to present the program to state legislators and key officials at the Idaho Department of Education in an effort to get state level support.

Q: How much money is needed for the program this year?

\$13,000. It is hoped that approximately \$100 per family will be donated this year.

Q: What is my donation money used for?

Your donation helps cover the cost of cultural events, library books in the target language and teacher training. For a more complete list of expenses please contact the building principal.

Q: What if the program collects more than the needed amount? What would be done with the excess money?

All monies collected for the Language Immersion program whether from grants, donations, or other means will stay in the program. Extra funds will NOT be used in other budgetary areas. If there are overages in a particular year, the additional funds will be used to offset costs in subsequent years.

Q: Will my donation be an ongoing expense or a one-time fee?

We are optimistic that we can subsidize future expenses through grants, fund raisers, and Idaho Legislation. We currently have committees of parents and district personnel working to contact local businesses, apply for grants, and collect other monies via fund raising efforts. If you are interested in helping us with this effort, please contact Michele Southwick at (208) 745-6693. If we are not able to subsidize future expenses through legislation, grants, or fundraisers, donation amounts will be the ongoing financial responsibility of the parents.

Q: How can I pay my donation? Is my donation tax deductible? Can I make sure my money is going where I want it to go?

You can pay your donation money by giving it to your school principal, paying it at district office, or online through the Education Foundation. There is also an option to make monthly payments to the program to help accommodate individual budgets. Any donation made to the Dual Language Immersion Program through the Jefferson Education Foundation is a tax deductible donation. Contact your tax advisor for specific details. Please make sure that you specify that the money is for the Dual Language Immersion Program (you can specify Spanish, Chinese, or General) so it makes it into the correct budget. Funds specified as “General” will be used to benefit both programs.

Q: How is my donation money being administered?

All donation money is being administered through the Jefferson Education Foundation. The Education Foundation was established in 1996 to help provide financial support for Jefferson County School District schools through fundraising, grants, grant writing support for schools, and active promotion of school programs. The Jefferson Education Foundation is governed by a board of community volunteers, separate from the District School Board.

Q: What if I know someone that would like to donate money to the program?

Please have them contact a parent representative, the school district office, or the principal of the school, or you can give their name to a school official. Donations can be made online via the Education Foundation website (www.sd251.org), link is on the bottom right of page.

Q: What is the future of the Dual Language Immersion Program?

We foresee this program lasting for years; this is a K-12 program and we will do all within our power to make sure it continues. This program will be evaluated each year.

Q: How can I stay informed about things going on in the Language Immersion Program?

The school district is developing a webpage for the World Language Immersion Program and each school is developing a webpage with information specific for their languages. The district World Language Immersion Program website can be found at www.sd251.org under “Curriculum & Instruction” on the top menu bar. There is contact information for the principals of the school specific programs on this page. The school district and schools will use School Messenger to send phone calls, emails, and text messages when appropriate. Parent volunteers have created Facebook pages for both language programs. Also, most of the teachers have web pages and send home newsletters regularly.