

Some things to Consider When Starting a Dual Language Program

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Strand 1: Program Structure

- 80-20? 50-50? What grades? Staffing, space, materials, and your student profile are all factors that influence this decision
- Mission, goals of the program articulated, coordinated and communicated to all stakeholders

Strand 2: Curriculum

- What is your district already using? Are there partner language versions?
- Is there a district standards-based curricula that all teachers are expected to use?
- Is there a curriculum development and implementation plan in place for DL that aligns to current research for bilingual learners?
- Does the curriculum support services/instruction for ESL, ELD, Spanish as a second language, special education, Title I and SAGE (gifted and talented)?

Strand 3: Instruction

- Are the instructional practices/methodologies designed with principles of dual language?
- Does the instruction incorporate appropriate separation of languages to promote high levels of language acquisition?
- Is the standards-based academic content instruction provided in both program languages in a coordinated way?
- When delivering instruction, are the varying needs of students with different learner profiles being addressed?
- Does instruction in one language build on concepts learned in the other language (directly related to scheduling)

Strand 4: Assessment and Accountability

- Are there commercially available assessment products in your partner language? Will you have to develop them?
- How to you report progress (especially in the partner language) to parents and families? Update report cards.
- Are formative and summative assessments valid and reliable for dual language learners?
- Are teachers provided with ongoing PD in reviewing assessment data, identify areas of need and adjust instruction as needed to meet needs of students?

Strand 5: Staff Quality and Professional Development

- Lot of PD needed for all teachers in the building regardless if you are creating a strand.
- MABE-La Siembra, summer institutes

- District/School visits
- What is the district's long term vision and planning for hiring qualified bilingual/DL teachers?
- Ongoing connecting, collaborating and advocating for your program needs

Strand 6: Family and Community

- Has the district/school created a positive school climate **AND** all families are valued and welcomed into the school community (regardless of whether program is whole-school or strand within a school)? How does this look like in your current school/district?
- Does the program incorporate ongoing learning activities that engage all parents of DL and help them understand, support and advocate for the program?
- Is the parent outreach and communication with families bilingual? Are the needs of bilingual families being met?

Strand 7: Support and Resources

- Is the program supported by all stakeholders? (district administrators, school principals, coaches, teachers, parents, community etc.)
- Is the program adequately funded, resources, staffing, instructional materials in both languages? Is it sufficient?
- Do program leaders (district and school-based) advocate for additional support and resources?

WHERE DO I START?

Brainstorm with a partner	Some action steps might be:
What is the best DL program design for my district, school based upon what I know about my students' profiles and staffing? Is there a mission, core beliefs, and district/school goals to support the program design?	
How does the current district/school curriculum impact the program design, if one is available? If not, is there a plan to develop, modify, implement?	
How do district/school leaders support teachers using instructional strategies aligned to the goals of DL education? What is needed?	
How will the DL program measure progress in both languages? What assessments, both formative and summative, will be in place?	
Knowing what I know about my district/school, what should be included in the PD plan to implement a DL program?	
How will district/school leaders engage in a community conversation about DL? How can I support this work?	
Additional concerns not mentioned above	