

Guide for Parents of English Language Learners

HISD | Multilingual Education MEETING DIVERSE NEEDS. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES.

Operating under Texas Education Agency guidelines, HISD features instructional programs tailored to every student's particular needs and interests. Offerings encompass administrative leadership and support for Bilingual and English as a Second Language education and alternative language programs for all students who have been identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) or immigrant, migrant, refugee, and newcomer students.

To ensure that these students successfully graduate from high school and are prepared to attend the post-secondary option of their choice, comprehensive and proactive programming and compliance systems have been institutionalized.

PROGRAM MODELS

For elementary students, the district currently offers Spanish [Transitional Bilingual and Dual Language programs](#), a [Bilingual Cultural Heritage Program \(Vietnamese\)](#), a [Mandarin Chinese Immersion](#), an [Arabic Immersion](#), and a [French Immersion program](#) as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for speakers of other languages.

Secondary schools offer ESL/Sheltered English and Sheltered Content programs for ELLs in grades 6-12. Bilingual programs are also offered at designated Dual Language schools.

DESCRIPTION OF LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

- **Transitional Bilingual:** Serves Spanish speaking students identified as limited English proficient, and transfers the student to English-only instruction. This model provides instruction in literacy and academic content areas through the medium of the student's first language, along with English language development.
- **Dual Language:** Is both an additive bilingual program for Spanish-speaking students and a foreign language immersion program for English-speaking students. In Two-Way classrooms, a combination of native Spanish speakers and native English speakers are



taught together in an effort to develop full bilingualism and bi-literacy for both groups of students.

At the secondary level (Middle School/High School), students participating in the program typically take two or three classes in Spanish.

Programming details in [Elementary](#) and [Secondary](#).

- **Cultural Heritage:** Speakers of Vietnamese, who are identified as ELLs, receive primary language support for literacy/concept development while they are acquiring English in an ESL instructional setting. This program is offered exclusively at [Park Place Elementary School](#).
- **ESL:** Designed for students to be instructed only in English. Teachers use ESL methods in each of the subjects to make content comprehensible.

In the **secondary** ESL program, “sheltered” English language arts courses are included to develop proficiency in comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Once identified as ELL, students are placed in grade-appropriate English classes according to their level.

NEWCOMER PROGRAM

The Newcomer program is an ESL programming approach specifically designed to effectively accommodate and educate the newly arrived population of non-English speaking immigrant students. Newcomer programming assists immigrant students to adapt to their new country, language, and school. This program provides linguistically accommodated instructional support to students, based on their level of English language proficiency, through English Language Development courses, sheltered content courses using ESL methodology, and ESL reading courses.

Secondary campuses have been designated as a HUB, Stand Alone or Transfer school for Newcomers. If your child is zoned to a Transfer school and you wish for them to receive Newcomer programming [click here](#).

This is an optional placement.

MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The goal of Migrant Education Program (MEP) is to design programs that help all migrant students overcome the educational disruption, challenges of mobility, cultural and language barriers, social isolation, various health-related problems and other factors associated with a migratory lifestyle in order to succeed in school and successfully transition to postsecondary education or employment.

- See the list of requirements of eligibility [here](#)
- View Migrant program [brochures](#)
- Download the Family Survey in [English/Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#) or [Arabic](#).

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM



HISD offers summer school for ELLs who are enrolled in PK and K during the school year (and who will enter K or 1st grade in the fall). This program is an extension of the school year and will be taught

by Bilingual/ESL certified teachers. This instruction focuses on language development and grade-appropriate Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

To inquire about a student's eligibility to attend summer school please contact your child's school or click [here](#).

ATTENDING AND ENROLLING IN SCHOOL

HISD promotes the concept of neighborhood schools and community involvement. Each school in the district serves the specific neighborhood within that school's attendance zone, and every student enrolled in the regular academic program is assigned to a particular school according to where his or her parent or legal guardian resides.



To determine which schools serve your residence, please click on [Select a School](#) or call the Student Transfer Department at 713-556-6734. For more information, you may also:

- View a list of [Dual Language campuses](#)
- Download the [Dual Language map](#)
- View [school boundary maps](#).

For more information go to [School Choice](#).

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The district Family and Community Engagement department has created a collection of resources that can benefit you and your family:

- Browse through the list of organization profiles to learn more about adult ESL and GED services [here](#).
- [View more guides](#) including after-school programs, summer camps, community centers, computer literacy, cultural enrichment, family literacy, STEM enrichment, translation, tutoring, and youth mentoring. www.houstonisd.org/communityresource
- [Hippy Program](#): Teaches parents of three and four-year-olds instructional activities that encourage learning and development that they can then practice with their children.

CONTACT US

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For more information regarding these programs contact the Multilingual Programs Department at 713-556-6961 or visit our [website](#).

