

Guide for Parents of English 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 Learners (ELs) 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 (bit.ly/TBandDL), a Bilingual Cultural Heritage Program in Vietnamese (bit.ly/ParkPes), a Mandarin Chinese Immersion (bit.ly/HISDmic), an Arabic Immersion, (bit.ly/HISDaims) and a French Immersion program (bit.ly/HISDfi) 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 ELs 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 (bit.ly/TBandDL) and Secondary (bit.ly/HISDsec).

- **Cultural Heritage:** Speakers of Vietnamese, who are identified as ELs, 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 (bit.ly/ParkPes).
- **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 ELs, students are placed in grade-appropriate English classes according to their level.

IMMIGRANT PROGRAM

The Immigrant program is an ESL programming approach specifically designed to effectively accommodate and educate the newly arrived population of non-English speaking immigrant students. Immigrant 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.

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.

- List of requirements of eligibility (bit.ly/2Ep5IJq)
- View Migrant program brochures (bit.ly/MEPbro)
- Download the Family Survey in English (bit.ly/MEPEen), Spanish (bit.ly/MEPsp), Vietnamese (bit.ly/MEPViet) or Arabic (bit.ly/MEPAra).

SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM



HISD offers summer school for ELs 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 (bit.ly/HISDss).

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 visit: bit.ly/findSch or call the Student Transfer Department at 713-556-6734. For more information, you may also:

- View a list of Dual Language campuses (bit.ly/listDL19)
- Download the Dual Language map (bit.ly/DLmap19)
- View school boundary maps (bit.ly/MapBoun)

For more information go to School Choice (bit.ly/SCchoice).

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 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. (bit.ly/HISDhippy)

CONTACT US

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For additional information contact the Multilingual Programs Department at: 713-556-6961
[@HISDmultiPrms](http://HoustonISD.org/Multilingual)

