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www.houstonisd.org/multilingual

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DROP OF WISDOM

Parents of students who are not yet proficient in English worry about not being able to support their child's English language development at home. Parents who are not yet fluent in English and only use their native language at home wonder if solely using the native language will hinder their child's ability to learn English and subsequently compromise their ability to be academically successful.



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Believe it or not, the native language is your child's most valuable resource. There is growing evidence that the home language of English learners supports academic success (Genesee & Lindholm-Leary, in press). According to research, by supporting your child in developing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in the home language, you are helping them develop these skills in English by providing them the opportunity to build strong receptive and expressive language skills. There is evidence that the development of strong language skills in the native language supports the development of oral and literacy skills in a second language. Moreover, having a large vocabulary in the native language supports your child's ability to learn and expand their vocabulary in the second language.

Children greatly benefit from the ability to communicate in more than one language when given the opportunity to develop strong language skills in both the native language and in English. Taking an additive approach to language learning supports bilingualism and biliteracy. Knowing two or more languages can have positive cognitive, communicative, cultural, affective, and economic long-term benefits. To this end, I encourage you to support your child's academic progress by providing opportunities to develop strong native language and English skills.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) English Learner Support Division has compiled a variety of helpful [websites](https://www.txel.org/helpfulwebsite/) to support families with English learners at home. These websites will help in strengthening English language proficiency skills in Listening (L), Reading (R), Speaking (S), and Writing (W). <https://www.txel.org/helpfulwebsite/>

DUAL LANGUAGE ES SPOTLIGHT

Ray K. Daily Elementary



It is through the eyes of Principal Tiet and her camera that we capture a glimpse into the flourishing campus known as Daily Elementary. She shares with us images of happy children interacting with one another, students' whose dual language environment fosters three goals: bilingualism/biliteracy, high academic achievement in both languages and sociocultural competence. As Daily's Leader, Cindy W. Tiet, describes the campus faculty as "a very close-knit vertical dual language team which fosters ongoing conversations around how we can best help our students. In addition to being a part of the vertical team, each DL teacher also plans with their content area colleagues in their grade level. They share instructional strategies, student successes, activities, and resources during their Professional Learning Communities. Teachers have ongoing conversations about their students who have participated in the program; it is rewarding for our Kindergarten and 1st grade DL teachers to hear how their former students are currently thriving in 3rd and 4th grades. All while sustaining a positive culture."

A significant percentage of Daily's students have been enrolled in the DL program over multiple years which has contributed to their success in developing true biliteracy by the end of 5th grade. The cohort of students and their families form strong relationships with one another since each class transitions to the next grade level together. Principal Tiet notes how their students begin to gain confidence, while developing leadership skills and providing support to their campus' newcomer students.

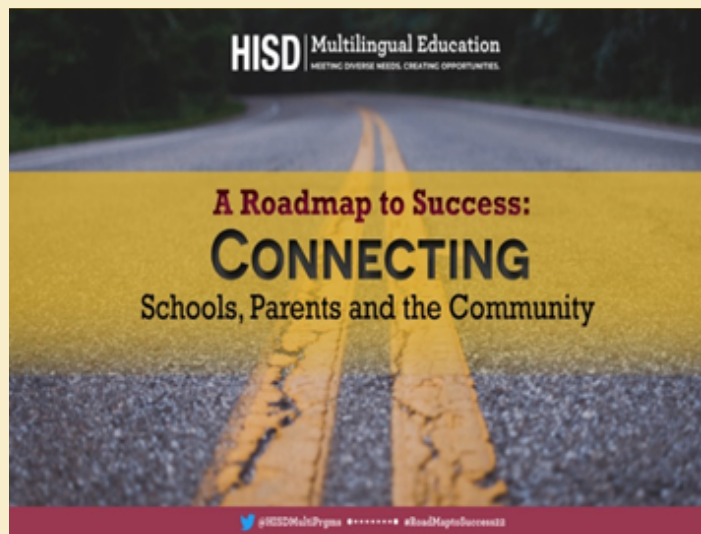


Ms. Tiet shares more about Daily Elementary... "it is a very diverse school, and we like to highlight all the different cultures that our students represent. This year, for Hispanic Heritage Month, our celebration culminated in a SCHOOL-WIDE Hispanic Heritage parade where all classes, both DL and non-DL, represented their learning of different Hispanic countries and others showcased their learning of important Hispanic individuals who have made significant contributions to our society."

Principal Tiet recognizes that while her staff is instrumental in providing their student body the guidance needed to succeed in a structured and challenging program such as the Dual program; she also credits the strong relationships developed between parents and teachers from the beginning through consistent communication.

MULTILINGUAL PROGRAMS

A Roadmap to Success Continues to Connect Schools, Parents, and the Community



Multilingual's Annual Parent Information Meeting was once again a success! Our parents were welcomed by Houston ISD's Leaders Superintendent Millard House III, and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Shawn Bird.

Educational experts from the Texas Education Agency, Region 4, and district-level staff provided informational videos. Various district teams such as HISD Project Explore, and College & Career Readiness also shared sessions to help broaden parents' knowledge of HISD's Bilingual and ESL Services and provide guidance on enhancing their children's academic journey.

Translated sessions were offered in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Urdu, Swahili, and Farsi to more than 130 of our district's dedicated parents.

District partners, Imagine Learning, Legacy Community Health, HEB, Lakeshore and Really Good Stuff offered our parents various prize giveaways throughout the event. Closing remarks were led by the Multilingual Department's Executive Director, Anna White, who applauded our district's parent's commitment to their children's scholastic future.

The event was recorded and is now available by clicking on the following link: <https://youtu.be/WUKWkv0FSIE>.

KEEPING TEXAS' PARENTS UPDATED ...

Additionally, the Texas Education Agency will offer the 2022 Title III Statewide Parent/Family Event in May. Read more about it by accessing this link <https://www.smores.com/bgp23>.

The event is developed with you in mind, families from across the state are sharing their input. We highly recommend partaking in this collaborative event.

The following link [Parents and Families Newsletter \(smores.com\)](#) offers a wealth of information beginning with student resources, family supports and how to enhance supporting your child. More importantly - **the newsletter is translated into 108 languages!** By subscribing to the newsletter, you will receive announcements, upcoming opportunities, at-home activities, self-care tips and archived newsletters. Don't hesitate, subscribe today!

[Parents and Families Newsletter \(smores.com\)](#).

Upcoming Conference Opportunities



Parents and Families Event May 2022

This virtual event will be held during the first week of May and will focus on sessions to discuss important topics, including:

- Understanding Bilingual Education programming
- Mental health and the social and emotional wellness of your child
- Resources for academic success

More information, along with registration links, will be coming soon, so bookmark the [Parents and Families Event](#) page to stay up-to-date.

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY: EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY RESOURCES

AET - Act Early Texas Screening for Child Development

Parents often wonder how their child's development compares to that of other children of similar age. The State of Texas is certainly blazing the trails as the only state that offers AET Screening. **Act Early Texas** ensures all children of Texas are screened, one by one! The Act provides parents and early childhood professionals (ECP) with information designed to answer the pondering question. The screening identifies areas in which a child's development differs from same-age peers. It is supported by the Children's Learning Institute and UTHealth at Houston.

The captured data indicates that identification, leading to early intervention, can make a significant difference in the life of a young child with a developmental delay or disorder.

Your proactiveness may be the best investment you make in your child's academic future, visit the following link for further guidance.

To learn more about the State's Early Childhood guidelines visit the link provided below. The Parent Guides were created to help families navigate through their yearly learning expectations. The resource documents have been developed for Prekindergarten 3 & 4, Kindergarten, and 1st & 2nd Grade. Discover more by visiting:

[Family Resources | Texas Education Agency.](#)

HISD'S 2022 SPRING TESTING CALENDAR

The following link will keep you informed as to the State Assessments your child will participate in this Spring.

Click here to learn more: <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2021-2022-%20testing-calendar-update-06-30-21.pdf>.

In addition to the assessment calendar, the district offers our parents an opportunity to subscribe to have a copy of the master testing calendar saved to your Outlook Calendar.

Click here to do so: <https://houstonisd.sharepoint.com/teams/sa/Lists/TstngCalndr/calendar.aspx>

