

Dear U-46 Parents and Guardians,

We are sending this message in an effort to reach families who might be interested in enrolling their young children in our award-winning Dual Language program for the 2022-23 school year.

Traditionally, forms for families to express interest in Dual Language have been due in November.

However, this year we have decided to shift the acceptance of the interest forms to align with the start of Kindergarten registration in February. Meaning, parents of incoming kindergarten and 1st grade students will be able to express their interest in Dual Language starting in February 2022. **At this time, there are no additional steps you need to take.** We will be in communication with you closer to the February date with details on how you can fill out and submit that interest form.

This timeline shift will allow our District to establish our “Two-Way” Dual Language classrooms, sites, and feeder patterns as best as possible before the end of the school year — and therefore offer this wonderful program to as many families as possible!

If you wonder what “Two-Way” Dual Language means, here’s a brief explanation:

Both our One-Way and Two-Way Dual Language programs operate on the same basic principles. In U-46 One-Way classrooms are made up of children who are English learners and come from a home where Spanish is the language spoken.

In our Two-Way Classrooms, students are invited to join their peers who have a Spanish home-language background. These students are eligible to join the Dual Language program starting in kindergarten or 1st grade. They can stay in Dual Language all the way through 12th grade, becoming bilingual, biliterate, acquiring higher-order thinking skills and problem-solving abilities, and developing social skills that allow them to make friends and connections in a multicultural, multilingual world. We usually are able to offer Two-way Dual Language classrooms at about 20 of U-46’s elementary schools; “satellite” schools are an option if your attendance school does not offer Two-Way Dual Language.

With our new timeline shift, parents of incoming kindergarten and 1st grade students will be able to express their interest in Two-Way Dual Language starting in February 2022.

Given the data trends from recent school years, we do not anticipate this impacting the ability for your child to be accepted into the Two-Way Dual Language program. Again, at this time, there are no additional steps you need to take.

In the meantime, please visit our [Dual Language website](#) to learn more about the program and make sure to check out what [ABC-7 Chicago News](#) had to share. If you have friends or family members in U-46 who have a current preschool or kindergarten student, and want to know more about our Dual Language program, please have them do the same!

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions about your child and our Dual Language program.

Sincerely,

Griselda Pirtle
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