

Dual Language Immersion (DLI) Programs in Portland Public Schools

Questions & Answers

Q: *What is a Dual Language Immersion (DLI) program?*

A: A dual language immersion (DLI) program is a core educational program that offers academic content in two languages: English and a partner language. PPS has DLI programs in five languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Russian. The goal is for all students to become bilingual and bi-literate while achieving at a high academic level and developing deeper cultural awareness. DLI programs are open to all students. For more information on PPS DLI models please visit the DLI website:

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/immersion>

Q: *How do I apply for my student to participate in a DLI program?*

A: Families must submit a School Choice Application during the annual transfer cycle. Applications may be submitted online at www.schoolchoice.pps.k12.or.us or delivered to the Enrollment and Transfer Center, 501 N. Dixon St., first floor, room 140. To learn about the deadline for this year's lottery visit the School Choice website indicated above.

Entry at Kindergarten is through a lottery. Late entry, at grades K-8 is through the petition process. Students entering at grades 1-8 may be required to complete an assessment demonstrating grade level proficiency in the partner language. Learn more about Kindergarten informational meetings, the lottery and petition process and the timeline for applying at www.schoolchoice.pps.k12.or.us, or contact the Enrollment and Transfer Center.

Q: *Do DLI programs span grades K-12?*

A: Yes. Students may transfer into a DLI program as early as kindergarten and may remain in the program through their senior year of high school. Students are encouraged to apply for the program closest to their home. Beginning with 9th grade in 2014, students who have been in a Spanish DLI program outside of their home region will be assigned to their regional high school to continue Spanish DLI. (See chart below.)

Q: *Do I need to apply in the lottery for transfer if my student will be moving from elementary to middle or middle to high school?*

A: No. DLI students are automatically promoted to the next level of their designated DLI program. However, a petition application is required if a student is interested in switching into a different program. Beginning in 2014, students who wish to attend a high school program that is outside their region will need approval through the petition process as well.

Q: *How are lottery slots determined for into DLI programs?*

A: Space for lottery transfers is determined every year based on the number of students needed to maintain a robust program and the amount of classrooms available in a school to serve that program. Many other considerations are taken into account including our goal to close the opportunity gap for historically underserved students and the need to have non-immersion classroom sizes comparable to those in immersion for any particular school.

Sibling Preference

Q: *Can a student enroll in a DLI program if a sibling is already enrolled in that program?*

A: Co-enrolled preference is given to students who have siblings enrolled in the same DLI program. These students must still apply through the lottery. The Co-enrolled sibling preference is not a guarantee of entry into any DLI program

Q: Does the sibling preference apply for students who are in the program K-12 or only in the elementary school?

A: The sibling preference applies for siblings K-12. The Enrollment and Transfer Center verifies all that families who are claiming the sibling preference have a sibling in the program prior to running the lottery.

Q: My third-grade student is attending the neighborhood non- DLI program. I want my child entering kindergarten at the same school to participate in its DLI program. Will this child receive sibling preference?

A: No. Sibling preference only applies to children with a sibling enrolled in the same DLI program, even if the program shares space with a neighborhood school.

Non-neighborhood families

Q: Can I apply for an immersion program outside of my neighborhood if there is an immersion program in my neighborhood?

A: Yes, you can apply to any program. Keep in mind that for Spanish DLI programs, students will be required to attend their regional Spanish DLI high school.

Q: Does living in the school's neighborhood increase my child's chances of gaining entrance into the program?

A: Most DLI programs offer neighborhood families a priority in the lottery process. Most — but not all — programs also have space available for students who live outside the neighborhood.

Q: My neighborhood school does not have an immersion program, where are the programs located?

A: See the [2018-2018 Elementary/K-8/Middle School Focus Option and Alternative Lottery Slots for PPS](#)

Q: I do not currently reside in the Portland Public Schools boundaries but plan to move within the district boundaries before the first day of school. Will my student be considered a “resident” in the School Choice lottery process?

A: Under certain circumstances, a student may be considered “resident” in the School Choice process, but can only be “conditionally” approved if selected in the lottery. Please contact the Enrollment & Transfer Center for more information.

If you have other questions please contact:

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