



Louisiana's Two-Way Dual Language Immersion Initiative

Developing Bilingualism and Biliteracy

What is Two-Way Immersion?

Two-Way Immersion (TWI) is a research-based dual language immersion instructional model that unites English learners (ELs), who share a common language, with native English speakers for all or most of the school day. TWI is uniquely designed to serve both native and non-native English speakers by developing each student's home language while learning a partner language. When implemented correctly, TWI is the most effective academic intervention strategy for English learners.

In a class composed equally of native and non-native speakers of the targeted language, all students have the opportunity to be both first language models and second language learners. The goal of TWI is to promote

- high academic achievement,
- first and second language development, and
- cross-cultural understanding for all students.

<i>What does Two-Way Immersion look like?</i>	Two-Way Immersion
Pathway can be implemented as a track within an existing school.	✓
Pathway begins in grades Pre-K or Kindergarten.	✓
Class is equally composed of native and non-native speakers of the target language.	✓
Core subjects (math, science, social studies, and a portion of language arts) are taught in the targeted languages by native/native-like teachers.	✓
Pathway includes targeted daily English instruction with a native English-speaking teacher.	✓

Why Two-Way Immersion?

National longitudinal studies of two-way programs¹ have found that students, both EL and native English speaking, enrolled in two-way immersion programs attain higher levels of long term academic achievement than students enrolled in other educational programs within the same school system. In addition to closing the achievement gap and creating equitable opportunities for English learners, all participants of the programming become bilingual and biliterate.

¹Collier, V.P., & Thomas, W.P. (2017). Validating the power of bilingual schooling: Thirty-two years of large-scale, longitudinal research. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics*, 37, 1-15.

Collier, V.P., & Thomas, W.P. (2020). Why dual language works for everyone, PK-12. *Multilingual Educator*, California Association for Bilingual Education, March 2020 annual edition.

“The growing demand for these programs is due in part to studies that have linked dual-language immersion to academic and cognitive benefits for students, regardless of their native language or socioeconomic status. Based on these findings, many educators and policymakers see dual-language immersion, and particularly two-way programs, as a promising way to close achievement gaps and foster academic success for English learners and other disadvantaged students.”² - The RAND Corporation

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As a part of a broader academic strategy, the Department supports school systems with established common language EL populations, in launching two-way immersion programs. With the Department’s structured professional development, staffing assistance, opportunities for collaboration with others implementing TWI, and startup funds to purchase curriculum and materials, system and school level leaders are better equipped to make informed decisions when rethinking options to equitably serve all students.

Support Offered by LDOE

- Dual language immersion administrator training
- TWI-specific professional development opportunities for teachers
- Facilitation of visits to and networking with existing TWI schools
- Assistance with planning, scheduling and start up

Resources for the Implementation of Two-Way Immersion

LDOE Resources

- [The Louisiana Guide to Effective Dual Language Immersion Programming](#)
- [The Louisiana English Learner Program Handbook](#)
- [The Louisiana World Languages Compendium](#)
- [LDOE’s English Learner Website](#)
- [LDOE’s World Languages and Immersion Website](#)

Spanish Language Arts and Assessment

- [ENIL \(Evaluación del Nivel Independiente de Lectura\)](#)
- [IDEL \(Indicadores Dinámicos del Éxito en la Lectura\)](#)
- [LAS Links](#)
- [Vista Higher Learning](#)

TWI Staff Professional Development and Support

- [The Center for Applied Linguistics \(CAL\)](#)
- [The Louisiana Consortium of Immersion Schools \(LCIS\)](#)
- [Taju Learning](#)

Next Steps

If you are interested in learning more about Two-Way Immersion or would like information on starting a program at your school or school system, please contact

- your school system’s EL Supervisor and Federal Programs Coordinator, or
- The Department’s World Language Specialists at language.acquisition@la.gov.

² RAND Corporation. (2016). *Implementing Two-Way Dual-Language Immersion Programs: Classroom Insights from an Urban District*. Retrieved 29 January 2021, from https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9921.html.