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Educational and Student Services

Available Language Programs and Language Acquisition Programs

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The San Dieguito Union High School District offers the following language and language acquisition programs for student enrollment. Parents/Guardians may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child (*EC* Section 310[a]). We are required to provide at a minimum, a Structured English Immersion (SEI) program option (*EC* Section 305[a][2]). A description of the language acquisition programs provided in the San Dieguito Union High School District are listed below. Please select the program that best suits your child.

- **Structured English Immersion (SEI) Program:** A language acquisition program for EL students in which nearly all classroom instruction is provided in English, but with curriculum and a presentation designed for students who are learning English. At minimum, students are offered designated ELD and provided access to grade level academic subject matter content with integrated ELD.
- **Newcomers Academy.** A specialized program called the Newcomers Academy is an instructional program designed for English learners, who are new to the country, with less than 12 months of schooling in the United States. Instruction and/or support may be provided in the students' native language. Program models vary and may include part of a school day or full-day in a separate program or school.
- **Dual-Language Immersion (DLI) Program (English/Spanish):** A language acquisition program for English learners and native English speakers in which students are taught literacy and academic content in English and Spanish. The goals of dual language are for students to develop high levels of language proficiency and literacy in both languages, to demonstrate high levels of academic achievement, and to develop an appreciation for and an understanding of diverse cultures.
- **Language Programs:** World language is not a requirement to graduate from SDUHSD. Coursework in languages other than English fulfills elective credits. To apply to most four-year colleges, students must earn a C grade or higher in two years of the same language other than English, with three years recommended, or equivalent. Students may take as many world languages as their schedule will allow, but prerequisites and department recommendations should be followed. SDUHSD offers courses in American Sign Language, French, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. Please see school websites for course offerings.
 - Middle school students in grades 7 & 8 may begin studies in select languages other than English. Middle school courses may be used to satisfy college entrance requirements and prerequisites for high school courses but no high school credit will be granted for courses taken during middle school.
 - High school students in grades 9-12 may take world language courses offered by their school or pursue off-campus coursework in languages that SDUHSD does not offer. Please work directly with the student's school counselor.

How to Enroll Your Child in a Language Acquisition Program:

Upon enrollment, the school conducts a Home Language Survey (HLS) to all new students. If the HLS indicates English as the primary language, the student is classified as English only (EO) and the process stops. If the HLS indicates a language other than English as the primary language, the student must take the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC). Parents will meet with the administration and counseling team to discuss the recommended language acquisition placement for the student. Parents/Guardians may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child, by submitting a verbal or written request to the Administration at the student's school. The request must include the date, parent and child names, description of request, and the student's grade level.

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) will do the following:

- Assist parents in clarifying their requests
- Maintain records of each request for three years
- Accept requests from students enrolled for the current year as well as the following school year
- Monitor the number of parent requests for language acquisition or language programs on a regular basis throughout the year
- Consider requests for a multilingual program model from parents of pupils enrolled in the school who are native speakers of English when determining whether a threshold is reached

How to Request the Establishment of a New Program at a School:

Schools in which the parents or legal guardians of 30 pupils or more per school or the parents or legal guardians of 20 pupils or more in any grade request a language acquisition program that is designed to provide language instruction shall be required to offer such a program to the extent possible. (20 U.S.C. Section 6312[e][3][A][viii][III]); *EC* Section 310[a]).

Parents may provide input regarding language acquisition programs during the development of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) (*EC* Section 52062). If interested in a different program from those listed above, please contact Dr. Briahna Weatherford, Ed.D. Director of Teaching, Learning, & Innovation at 760-753-6491 x5526 to ask about the process.

About Language Acquisition Programs and Language Programs

| Program Type | Characteristics |
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| Language Acquisition Program (English Learners) | <p>The California Code of Regulations section 11309 requires that any language acquisition program provided by a school, district, or county shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be designed using evidence-based research and include both Designated and Integrated English Language Development;• Be allocated sufficient resources by the local educational agency (LEA) to be effectively implemented, including, but not limited to, certificated teachers with the appropriate authorizations, necessary instructional materials, pertinent professional development for the proposed program, and opportunities for parent and community engagement to support the proposed program goals; and• Within a reasonable period of time, lead to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Grade-level proficiency in English, and, when the program model includes instruction in another language, proficiency in that other language; and✓ Achievement of the state-adopted academic content standards in English, and, when the program model includes instruction in another language, achievement of the state- adopted academic content standards in that other language. |
| Language Program (non-English Learners) | <p>Language programs offer students who are not English learners opportunities to be instructed in languages other than English</p> <p>May lead to proficiency in languages other than English</p> |