



**TEA**<sup>TM</sup>  
TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

Texas Education Agency  
1701 North Congress Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

**For additional information  
on Bilingual programs:**

Texas Education Agency  
Division of Curriculum

(512) 463-9581

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=4098>



# Bilingual Education Program:

*Benefits  
for Your  
Child*





## What is the purpose of the Bilingual Education program?

- Enable students to become competent in literacy and academic skills in English through their native language.
- To help English language learners (ELL) master the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) required by the state.

## Who does the Bilingual Education program serve?

- Students whose native language is other than English and whose English language skills are such that the student is having difficulty performing classwork in English.
- English speaking students with district and parent approval may also participate in Bilingual Education programs to become proficient in two languages.

## What instruction will my child receive in a Bilingual Education program?

- A full-time program of instruction for learning basic skills in the native language of the student by carefully structured and sequenced mastery of English language skills.
- Instruction in the native language of the student and English for language arts and content areas using effective research-based strategies.
- Instruction shall be designed to consider the student's learning experiences, instill a positive identity and shall incorporate the cultural aspects of the student's backgrounds.



## Will my child be taught the same subjects and learn the same skills as students in the general education program?

- Yes, all students in Bilingual Education will receive instruction in the TEKS in their native language and English.
- Yes, language arts, reading, mathematics, science and social studies are taught as part of the state required curriculum.
- Yes, in subjects such as art, music, and physical education, students will have a meaningful opportunity to participate fully with English speaking students which are part of a balanced curriculum.

## Will my child learn English in a Bilingual Education program?

- Yes, the mastery of English listening, speaking, reading and writing skills are required in the Bilingual Education program.
- Yes, English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction is an integral part of the Bilingual Education program.
- Yes, the academic instruction in the native language facilitates the transition to English.

## How do I know if my child has been recommended for placement in the Bilingual Education program?

- The Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) that determines how students are identified, placed, instructed and assessed shall give written notice to the student's parent advising that their child has been recommended for the Bilingual Education program.
- The LPAC should provide information describing the Bilingual Education program, its benefits to the student, and it being an integral part of the school program to ensure that parents understand the purposes and content of the program.

## How can parents help their child learn by participating in a Bilingual Education program?

- Parental approval is required to allow their child to participate and benefit from the Bilingual Education program.
- Parents can participate as a member of the LPAC the helps determine how students are identified, placed, instructed and assessed.
- Parents can become involved at home by encouraging their child to achieve, providing him/her a place to study and showing interest in his/her school work.
- Parents can volunteer and help in classroom activities.

***Texas Education Code §29.051 – State Policy***  
*Public Schools are responsible for providing a full opportunity for all students to become competent in speaking, reading, writing, and comprehending the English language. The mastery of basic English language skills is a prerequisite for effective participation in the state's educational program.*