

# Dual Language Weekly Focus

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Teaching & Assessing in Two Languages

This weekly focus serves as a reminder. If you have not been adhering to the following information, please keep this in mind for future six weeks.

Second graders in the Dallas ISD Dual Language program receive Reading/Language Arts Instruction in English and Spanish for equal amounts of time\*. Because instruction is in two languages, classroom assessments should be as well. Therefore, students in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Dual Language classrooms should receive a Reading/Language Arts grade in Spanish and a separate grade in English. Both grades stand alone; they are not averaged together. CRCs have access to the corresponding course codes to allocate two independent grades and the comment to indicate when learning is occurring in the child's second language. (0227 - READ/LANG SPAN 0228 - READ/LANG ENGL Comment Code 91: Learning in 2nd language. Aprendizaje en el segundo idioma.)

By following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade SLA CPG for Spanish and English Language Arts instruction, teachers will be able to use native language skills to enhance student learning in English. The SLA CPG provides ideas for teaching both languages and making connections for skills to transfer from the child's native language.

In teaching and assessing students learning English, please keep in mind\*\*:

- The linguistic level of the student
- Progress in language development; listening, speaking, reading and writing
- Language learning is not a deficiency for the child, it is an asset
- Development of the output domains (speaking and writing) sometimes lag behind development in the input domains (listening and reading)
- The curriculum is not watered down for the students, but accommodations for varying linguistic levels are necessary.
- Can the student demonstrate clarity of ideas/ effort/ and understanding of the content appropriately for his/her linguistic level?
- A portfolio of authentic student work will most accurately show growth.
- Use the Proficiency Level Descriptors from the TELPAS rating system to know and understand what students are capable of at given proficiency levels.

Formal assessments for reading/language arts at the district, state and federal level will continue to be assessed in the primary language of instruction, Spanish.

\*Reading 1<sup>st</sup> Campuses must comply with dual program expectations.

\*\*For opt-in students learning Spanish as a Second Language; these points apply to teaching and assessing them in Spanish.