

~~IHBE Bilingual Instruction Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition~~

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Board of Education

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POLICY IHBE

Las Cruces Public Schools

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Related Entries: IHBE-R

Responsible Office: ~~Associate Superintendent for Instruction~~ Associate Superintendent of Equity, Innovation, and Social Justice

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Bilingual Instruction

Bilingual Education & English Language Acquisition

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I. PURPOSE

~~To recognize the positive benefits of a student's first language, that bilingualism enhances a student's ability to contribute powerfully to society, and to affirm the education of English Language Learners as a high priority, and ensure that an aligned K-12 dual language program is available to students.~~

The purpose of this policy is:

1. To strengthen the Board's commitment to recognize a students' home language as an asset and to promote the acquisition of more than one language for all students.
2. To affirm the Board's commitment to ensuring that Las Cruces Public Schools has a Bilingual Education Program in place for students whose home language is Spanish and to ensuring that that there are PreK-12th grade opportunities throughout the district for participation in these programs.
3. To ensure that PreK-12 students whose home language is not English have equity in education and are prepared for becoming successful global citizens who obtain high levels of English proficiency, master academic standards, and have opportunities to develop proficiency in multiple languages.

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II. BACKGROUND

The Las Cruces Public School Board recognizes that success for every student is based on the premise that quality education is a fundamental right of every child. The Board acknowledges that the New Mexico Constitution instructs the State to develop a uniform system of public schools sufficient for the education of all New Mexico students. The Court's decision and order in the Martinez and Yazzie consolidated lawsuit held that New Mexico has not met its duty to provide an education to the state's "at-risk" students, including those who are economically disadvantaged, Native American, English learners, or students with disabilities.

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Bilingual education is an effective vehicle for providing Emergent Bilingual students with a full measure of access to an equitable educational opportunity as required by Federal and State law.

Language should not be a barrier that impedes Emergent Bilingual students English Language Learners in their effort to secure equitable equal educational opportunities in the Las Cruces Public Schools.

For the purpose of this policy the term "Emergent Bilingual students" will be used in place of "English learners". The term Emergent Bilingual students recognizes the assets that students who are learning a second language bring to their educational experience. An Emergent Bilingual student includes but is not limited to students who are acquiring English as a second language.

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III. POSITION

A. Students who are acquiring English as a second language, including immigrant and refugee children and youth, will be provided rigorous and relevant instruction.

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B. The district will ensure that the instructional program meets all academic standards, including those specified in the Common Core State Standards, in support of the state of New Mexico's long-standing policy to further bilingual, multicultural education. Services for Emergent Bilingual students will be aligned to Federal and State guidelines and instructional standards.

C. The district will provide research-based instructional practices and guidance on effective instructional design for Emergent Bilingual students.

~~B.D.~~ The district is committed to providing meaningful and inclusive parental participation through community outreach strategies and parent engagement programming to enhance/develop language acquisition programs for all students.

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~~C.E.~~ The Superintendent shall promulgate a regulation for the implementation of this policy. The superintendent and/or their designee(s) shall develop an LCPS Language Acquisition Master Plan, which shall align with this policy and all Federal and State requirements. The LCPS Language Acquisition Master Plan shall be made available to all LCPS students and parents/guardians.

IV. REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

40.46.42

Board of Education, President

Date Approved

History: Formerly Policy 407 Bilingual Education; Revised 10.16.12

Legal Reference: 6.29.1.11.C NMAC; 6.32.2.7 through 6.32.2.16 NMAC; 22-23-1, NMSA 1978