



TWO-WAY IMMERSION PROGRAMMING:

DEVELOPING BILINGUALISM, BILITERACY AND BICULTURALISM

Two-way Immersion (TWI) is an evidenced-based **instructional model** designed to **equitably** meet the instructional needs of English learners. It integrates native English speakers and native speakers of another language for all or most of the day, with the goals of promoting:

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

Although both two-way and traditional immersion models show impressive results for students, TWI is designed to serve both English and non-English speakers by developing the English Learner's heritage language while the student learns English as a second language.

In a class that is composed equally of native and non-native speakers of the target language, all students have the opportunity to be both first-language models and second-language learners.

What does Immersion look like?	One-Way Immersion	Two-Way Immersion
Pathway can be implemented as a track within an existing school.	✓	✓
Pathway begins in grades Pre-K or Kindergarten.	✓	✓
Class equally composed of native and non-native speakers of the target language.		✓
Class mainly composed of students who are not native speakers of the target language.	✓	
Core subjects (math, science, social studies, and a portion of language arts) are taught in the target language by native/native-like teachers.	✓	✓
Pathway includes targeted daily English instruction with a native English-speaking teacher.	✓	✓

WHY TWO-WAY IMMERSION?

National longitudinal study of two-way bilingual programs have found that students, both EL and English-speaking, enrolled in two-way immersion programs attain **higher levels of academic achievement** over the long term than students enrolled in other educational programs within the same district. In addition to closing achievement gaps and creating equitable opportunities for English Learners, all students become bilingual, biliterate and bicultural.

LOUISIANA'S TWO-WAY IMMERSION INITIATIVE

As part of the broader Academic Strategy; LDE is supporting school systems with established monolingual EL populations to launch two-way immersion programs. Through structured professional development, opportunities to collaborate with others implementing TW, staffing support and start-up funds to purchase curriculum and other materials, district and school leaders are able to make informed decisions when rethinking programming options to better serve their English Learner population.

In the News

"The growing demand for these programs is due in part to studies that have linked immersion programming 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." (RAND)

WHAT'S NEXT IN LOUISIANA'S TWO-WAY IMMERSION INITIATIVE?

LDOE is continuing to support the expansion of TWI by sponsoring cohorts of district and school leaders.

Do you serve an established, common minority language community? Are you ready to commit to a long term solution?

- Learn the ins and outs of TWI through training
- Attend a national dual language conference
- Visit a successful school program
- Receive implementation technical support and start-up funds

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO-WAY IMMERSION

- General Information
 - » [Nurturing Proficiency, Building Biliteracy: The Louisiana World Languages Compendium](#)
 - » [LDOE's World Languages + Immersion Website](#)
- Spanish ELA Curriculum:
 - » [Santillana](#)
 - » [ENIL Developmental Reading Taxonomy](#)
- TWI staff development and onsite coaching support:
 - » [Taju Learning](#)
 - » [Center for Applied Linguistics \(CAL\)](#)
 - » [Louisiana Consortium of Immersion Schools \(LCIS\)](#)

NEXT STEPS

Contact your school system's EL supervisor, Federal Programs supervisor or LDOE to discuss the steps to take to add a Two-Way Immersion EL program to your school.

