



**COBB COUNTY**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

**ONE TEAM**  
**ONE GOAL**  
**STUDENT SUCCESS**

# Dual Language Immersion King Springs Elementary

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Dual Language Immersion (DLI) was approved by the Cobb County Board of Education in March, 2015 for interested schools to offer as an innovative academic program.



# Why Dual Language Immersion?

- Research has proven that world language study boosts the brain.
- Results indicate that bilingualism is reliably associated with several cognitive outcomes.
  - Increased attentional control
  - Working memory
  - Meta-linguistic awareness
  - Abstract and symbolic representation skills

Source: Adesope, Lavin, Thompson, Ungerleider, 2010

By continuing to learn and develop using two languages, children's educational and cognitive developments are enhanced.

Learning in two languages provides students with access to two groups of literature, an opening to diverse traditions, ideas, and ways of thinking which can lead to open mindedness, flexibility, and an ability to think in a different way.

DLI programs are the most effective types of learning for nurturing bilingual/biliterate students.

Cobb Dual Language Immersion program helps students to develop linguistic competence in both languages at the same time (listening, speaking, reading, and writing).

Studying in two languages allows students to transfer knowledge and skills acquired in one language to the other.

Students feel comfortable and successful in one language while gradually building the second language.



## Proven Benefits of Dual Language Immersion

- Language Skills
  - Students achieve high proficiency in the immersion language.
  - Students become bilingual and biliterate.
- Improved Performance on Standardized Tests
  - Students perform as well as or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests of English and math administered in English.

## Proven Benefits of Dual Language Immersion

- Enhanced Cognitive Skills
  - Develop greater cognitive flexibility
  - Demonstrate increased attention control
  - Better memory
  - Superior problem solving skills
  - Enhanced understanding of primary language

- Increased Cultural Sensitivity
  - Increased awareness of other cultures
  - Show more positive attitudes towards other people
- Long Term Benefits
  - Better prepared for the global community and job markets where a second language is an asset

## Academic Benefits

- Reading/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Content area performance

Multiple studies, conducted over many years throughout the world, in a variety of immersion languages, support results that dual language immersion students perform as well as, and often times better, on standardized end of year math and English tests, than students taught in a traditional classroom setting where they receive instruction in their native language only.

## Current Cobb DLI Schools

Smyrna

Nickajack

Fair Oaks

Norton Park

Dowell

Riverside Intermediate (2017-2018)

Riverside Primary

Mableton

Russell

Hollydale

Clarkdale

## DLI Schools in Metro Atlanta

### High Performing and/or Special Programs in Addition to DLI

#### Cobb

Mableton – Cobb STEM Certified

#### Atlanta Public Schools

Garden Hills – IB (PYP)

Morris Brandon – IB (PYP)

E. Rivers – IB (PYP)

Sarah Smith

#### DeKalb

Ashford Park – National STEM

Evansdale – Georgia STEM

#### Dalton City

Brookwood – Georgia STEM

# Cobb DLI Model

How does it work?

**ONE TEAM**

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## 50-50 Model

- Two Teachers
  - Immersion Teacher
  - English Partner Teacher
- Separate classrooms
  - Each kindergarten teacher has a paraprofessional
  - Immersion teacher has a para who is proficient speaker of the immersion language

# Teacher Qualifications

## Immersion Teacher

- Early Childhood certified
- Advanced-Mid rating or higher on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Written Proficiency Test (WPT).

## English Partner Teacher

- Early Childhood certified
- ESOL endorsed or willing to complete the endorsement during the first year of immersion teaching.

# What does each teacher teach?

Immersion Teacher – teaches entirely in the immersion language

- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Literacy

English Partner Teacher

- Language arts
- Reading
- Content area reinforcement

# FAQ's

- ✓ Are DLI students eligible for Target if they qualify?

Yes

- ✓ Are DLI students eligible to participate in Talent Development?

Yes

- ✓ Will DLI students be able to take Advanced Content courses in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades?

DLI would not prohibit students from taking Advanced Content courses if there is a sufficient number of students who qualify for the courses.

# FAQ's

- ✓ Are DLI students eligible to receive EIP services?  
Yes
- ✓ Are Special Education students eligible to be in DLI?  
Yes, unless the IEP Team determines that DLI is not the most appropriate educational setting for that student.

## FAQ's

- ✓ Will DLI continue in middle school and high school? Yes. In middle school, the students will take an advanced Spanish class each year and a content class taught in Spanish. We will work with middle school principals and middle school level assistant superintendents to determine which content class will be taught in Spanish.

In high school, students will take AP Spanish in either 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade. After that, students will have the choice of taking other Spanish classes either at the high school or at a local university. In addition, some students may choose to begin studying an additional language.

Questions?

Thank you!

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