



To: Harlem School District Board of Education
Dr. Terrell Yarbrough, Superintendent
Josh Aurand, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations
From: Dr. Michelle Erb, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Ana Luisa Dominguez, Director of Multicultural Education
RE: Adelante Educational Specialist Group: Biliteracy Professional Development
Date: September 2, 2026

Adelante Educational Specialist

To support the continued growth of bilingualism and biliteracy among students in our Harlem Language Academy (HoLA) program, it is essential to ensure cohesive and high-quality instruction based on the language allocation in each grade level. We propose to partner with Adelante Educational Specialist. The specialist will bring expertise in biliteracy development and standards alignment to support high-quality instructional practice.

Adelante Education Specialist will provide three days of Biliteracy Professional Development for bilingual and ESL staff during the 26-27 school year. During these days, grade level teams will work alongside Adelante Educational Specialists Group to develop a paired curriculum map using HMH Arriba la lectura curriculum as the core resource. These paired curriculum maps will be aligned to all standards: The Illinois Learning Standards (Language Arts, Social Science and NGSS), the Illinois Spanish Language Arts Standards and WIDA standards and will incorporate the district priority standards and existing resources.

Professional Development Components

- a. 3 Days of Curriculum Alignment
 - Provide guided support for bilingual and ESL teachers in developing a comprehensive dual language pacing guide based on the language allocation
 - Ensure cohesive alignment between Spanish Language Arts (SLA) and English Language Development (ELD) Standards
 - Identify and prioritize key standards to strengthen instructional coherence across languages

This professional development will strengthen biliteracy instruction by equipping teachers with effective, research-based strategies to support the language development in both Spanish and English. Improved alignment between SLA and ELD standards will promote cross-linguistic transfer and more cohesive Biliteracy instruction. Students in the HoLA program will benefit from more rigorous, cohesive, and culturally and linguistically responsive instruction, leading to improved outcomes in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in both languages.

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