

MEMO

To: Susan Flanagan, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent
From: Eva N. Rosa, Director of Bilingual Services
Cc: Board of Education
Date: April 10, 2012
RE: Bilingual Program Update

The bilingual self-contained teachers in grades K-2 from Lincoln, Melrose and Stevenson Schools met on Tuesday, April 13th to discuss the bilingual program literacy chart and the alignment to the state requirements for native language instruction and transition into English reading. Teachers are instructing students using the district's general curriculum with the accommodations in native language per state requirements. Transition into English reading takes place during the second semester of first grade and increases throughout the rest of the grades. ESL is taught from day one. All the strategies used in the general curriculum are also used in the bilingual classrooms. Teachers administer DIBELS and all other benchmark assessments as required from the general curriculum. We will continue to meet in order to establish a non-negotiable document that will ensure that our ELLs continue to receive a solid base in literacy and transition into English reading. Attached is the bilingual reading chart. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 30, 2012.

A Bilingual Parent meeting was held at Garfield School on Wednesday, March 15, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

A parent workshop took place on Thursday, March 15 at Melrose Park School. The presenter was Mr. Ferney Ramirez. Parents enjoyed and actively participated in activities on the topic of Understanding Depression and How it Affects Children at School. Our next parent workshop is scheduled for Thursday, April 26th at 6:00 p.m. at Lincoln School.

The Bilingual Parent Advisory Council met on Wednesday, March 28th. The council discussed the school meetings with bilingual parents and the State Bilingual Parent Summit. The council received the invitations and the registration forms. Attached is the flier for the summit.

The GED program is moving ahead with the placement test scheduled for the following dates: Saturday, April 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the Administration Building, Tuesday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m., at the Administration Building and Tuesday, May 1 at the Van Buren Center. The placement test will indicate the level of classes needed in preparation for the GED test. Personnel from Triton College will administer the test. I will be at the testing site on all three days. Participants are receiving the letter and registration form. They will have an opportunity to choose the testing day that is most convenient for them.