

ITEM FOR INFORMATION**DUAL LANGUAGE EXPANSION PLAN****SUMMARY**

The expansion of dual language programs is a priority area outlined in the district's strategic plan. The district is working to expand dual language programs over time, with the end goal that all students across the district will have the option to choose dual language learning. Staff will share the next phase of the district's plan to expand programs in the 2024–25 and 2025–26 school years.

BACKGROUND

Dual language is a form of bilingual education in which students are taught literacy skills and content in two languages, which benefits students' learning and well-being. The Beaverton School District has been working to develop a plan to expand dual language programming throughout the district, so that all students, if they choose the option, may attend a dual language program from elementary through high school with the goal of acquiring biliteracy/multiliteracy skills.

The decision to expand dual language programs is based upon a number of factors:

- Research indicates that students in dual language programs have a higher on-track graduation rate and are more likely to attend college after high school.
- Research also suggests that students who participate in dual language programs experience greater confidence, self-esteem and a sense of belonging in their school communities.
- Research provides strong evidence for the implementation of bilingual education as the standard service, rather than exception, for English Learner-classified students.
- Dual language programming aligns to the mission, vision, strategies and outcomes of the district's strategic plan.
- Results from a survey of BSD families during the 2022–23 school year indicated that Spanish is the language most preferred by families, by a wide margin. Mandarin Chinese was the next most desired option for dual language programming.

Staff will present information on the next phases of the dual language expansion, which will include launching a new Spanish program and a Mandarin Chinese program in 2024–25.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff will present information on the district's dual language expansion plan. No board action is needed.

Belong. Believe. Achieve.