

To: Superintendent Michael Robey, Ed.D.
From: Eva N. Rosa
Cc: Board of Education
Date: November 29, 2012
RE: Bilingual Program Update

1. Our first Bilingual Parent Workshop took place on November 7th, 2012. Parents and students had the opportunity to participate in interactive activities on the topic of Home and School Connection. Efforts are being made to have the workshops at each school building to give all parents the opportunity to attend. Our next parent workshop is scheduled for January 2013 with a topic in the area of Nutrition and Health. (Title III Funded)
2. The ESL cohort fall session continues through December 2012. (Title III Funded)
4. We are in the process of restructuring some areas of the Bilingual/ESL Resource program in order to accommodate state requirements of minutes of service and balance the number of students per teacher at most schools. This process includes hiring a new resource teacher for Jane Addams and Stevenson, hiring a new teacher to service the English language learners in the Pre-school for All Program, and switching bilingual/ESL resource teachers to schools with higher number of students.
5. Placement/English language screening of new students continues. The process is on-going through May 2013, as required by state code.
6. Our partnership with the Melrose Park Community Alliance continues during this school year in addition to our representation in Triton's Nuevos Horizontes Advisory Council. The objective of both institutions is to expand resources for the community in the areas of educational training, health, social services. (No Cost to District 89)
7. Preparations are on the way for the ACCESS test in January. Tests were ordered and teachers are revisiting the WIDA training session for the administration and scoring of speaking portion. (State Funded)
8. This year, the bilingual after school tutoring program has partnered with the districts tutoring program initiative. Title III money has been allocated for each school to hire bilingual and ESL teacher to tutor second language learners.
9. Our report card has been revised in order to accommodate both, English and Spanish on the same page. This will eliminate having to print to separate reports-English and Spanish. Efforts by the technology department have made it possible to obtain these reports using the PowerSchool system. Parents will still have the option to waive the report card in the Spanish language and receive the report in English as stipulated by the Illinois state administrative code.
10. The Illinois State Bilingual Conference will take place December 4th – December 7th. We have 22 teachers and administrators attending the event. (Title III Funded)