

# Bilingual

## **Stockton's TBE/TPI Team:**

Bilingual Lead Teacher/K-8 –ESL Pull-Out- Leah Cooper

Kindergarten (Spanish) – Damaris Woodbury

Third Grade (Spanish) – Sofia Kokkino      Third Grade (ESL)- Anne Cuddy

Frequently Asked Questions:

### **1] What is Bilingual Education?**

Bilingual Education is a means of providing instruction or other educational assistance through the home language while student is acquiring English proficiency. Based on enrollment numbers, schools offer either a Transitional Bilingual Program (TBE) or a Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI). Both programs are designed to prepare students for the General Program of Instruction by gradually increasing English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction while providing support through native language. The goal is for English Language Learners (ELLs) to make the transition in three years, excluding kindergarten. This time limit can be extended on a case by case basis.

**2] What (TBE/TPI) Bilingual/ESL Programs does Stockton Provide?** At Stockton, the TBE program provides services to qualified ELLs whose native language is Spanish. TBE Program consists of instruction in both English and the home language of the languages. We have approximately 84 students in our TBE/TPI programs (including Pre-School enrollment). Our TPI/ESL program is a pull-out for ELLs in grades K-8.

Ms. Cooper's TPI Pull-Out Program serves all ELLs in grades K-8. The purpose of the TPI program is to provide ELLs with English as a Second Language instruction and additional resources and supports in the general program of instruction. English language learners may be part of the general program of instruction and receive daily ESL from appropriately certified teachers. The structure of the TPI program is determined by the ELL's English language proficiency and is designed to enable students to keep pace with peers in achievement in the core academic content areas. ELLs with different home languages may participate together in the same classroom, according to their age and their English language proficiency level. Whenever possible, the student's native language is used for instruction and support in the general education classroom if staff who speak the students' native language is available.

### **3] How are ELLs Identified?**

At the beginning of each year, all new students entering the Chicago Public Schools are administered a Home Language Survey to identify any non English language background. The survey becomes part of the child's record. An individual WIDA Access Placement test is given only to those students who have a second language spoken at home. Based on the results of the placement test, if the child is determined to be an ELL, he/she is enrolled either in the TBE or TPI program. A notice of enrollment is sent to the Parents/Guardians in English and /or in the home language of the child within 30 days of enrollment. Parents/Guardians wishing to request a program change or to decline TBE/TPI program services must do so in writing and signing the Program Change Request Form, which is available at the school. At the beginning of each new school year, parents will be notified of their child's English Proficiency status, academic achievement level, processes, placement, program options, services, outcomes, and parental rights/options.

#### **4] How are English Language Learners Assessed?**

All ELLs are assessed in English. For placement in TBE/TPI program, we administer the WAP-T individually to all new students entering for the first time in a Chicago Public School. Later in the year, an assessment called "ACCESS" for ELLs is administered to measure their proficiency in English. It covers the four language domains (Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing). Results of these tests arrive at the beginning of the next school year and a copy is sent home to the parent.

**5] How Can Parents Get Involved in the Bilingual Program?** Parent Representatives in the Stockton Bilingual Advisory Committee (BAC) attend the Bilingual and multicultural meetings each year at local, district and city-wide levels. They are actively involved in the school. We encourage more parents to get involved in their children's education at our school. If you have any questions or concerns, see or call Ms. Cooper at 773-534-2450 during school hours.