

SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO
SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

ADOPTED: March 26, 2012

REVISED: January 26, 2015;
March 9, 2015; June 13, 2016

<p><i>Formerly Policy 201.1</i></p> <p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definition</p> <p>3. Eligibility</p> <p>4. Policy 200 – Enrollment of Students</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">200.1 ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM</p> <p>The Board recognizes the value of our students’ ability to become bi-lingual in order to bridge the gap between cultures, contribute to international diplomacy, and successfully engage in future international business or in careers requiring such skills. It has been well documented that children learn foreign languages more easily at an early age than later in life. Foreign language immersion has demonstrated improved understanding of one's native language, enhanced intellectual growth, creation of more flexible thinkers and better listeners, enhanced understanding of other cultures, a head start in higher education language requirements, and increased job opportunities. As the demographics of the United States continue to change, fluency in Spanish becomes an even greater competency for success. To that end, the Board supports the Spanish Immersion program and successful means for students to become fluent in Spanish along with their native language of English.</p> <p>Spanish Immersion program - for purposes of this policy, is defined as a series of planned instruction presented in the Spanish language beginning in first grade and continuing through fifth grade. Beginning in sixth grade, students will continue to have opportunities for core content courses taught in Spanish or in advanced Spanish language instruction. Live lottery process – a meeting, open to parents or guardians of students registered for the Spanish Immersion program, will be held in a Southern Lehigh School District school and student names will be randomly selected to identify the order in which students are eligible for enrollment in the program.</p> <p>Families of students must be district residents and students must be registered with the district for the current or upcoming school year prior to Spanish Immersion enrollment in order to be eligible. For incoming students, residency is to be evidenced by appropriate documentation at the time of registration at Central Office and prior to immersion enrollment at Liberty Bell Elementary</p>
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<p>5. Guidelines and Directions for enrollment</p>	<p>School. New residents shall refer to SLSD Policy 200 for district registration procedures.</p> <p>Initial Spanish Immersion enrollment applications for first grade are accepted online once a year, usually in early spring. The date for application submission deadline, and the live lottery to select students for the program are posted on the district website and can also be found on the district calendar.</p> <p>Enrollment for the Spanish Immersion program is limited to 29 students. Once a student has enrolled in the program, any additional siblings will be given preference for enrollment. Sibling preference will be limited to no more than 14 students in a given school year. Parents or guardians of siblings interested in enrolling in the program must submit an application form online by March 1. If siblings interested in enrollment exceed 14, a live lottery will be held for sibling enrollment prior to the general live lottery process. Any sibling not selected in the sibling lottery will be placed in the general lottery.</p> <p>The remaining open slots available after siblings have been enrolled will be selected through a general live lottery. In order to be eligible for the lottery selection process, parents or guardians of interested children must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. meet orientation requirements,2. submit a signed program commitment agreement, and3. submit an online application form by the published deadline. <p>Orientation requirements will include a variety of activities designed to ensure that parents or guardians understand the rigor of the program and the parental commitment required for student success. These activities will include both face-to-face and online/recorded</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Parent/guardian information sessions;2. classroom visitations;3. teacher, parent/guardian, and student sharing/discussions;4. FAQ's, and question/answer sessions. <p>Activities will be designed to meet a variety of scheduling needs of parents or guardians and will allow for options to meet the requirement. Options and dates/location of live meetings and directions for accessing online recorded resources will be posted on the district website.</p> <p>Spanish Immersion enrollment application forms for the upcoming school year will be made available online through the district website. The form is to be completed, one per child, and submitted electronically by the published</p>
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<p>6. Student transfers and enrollment beyond 2nd grade.</p> <p>Renumbered 11/11/13</p>	<p>deadline by parent or guardian. Submitted online application forms will be confirmed as received by the district to ensure inclusion in the lottery.</p> <p>Computer kiosks are available for parents/guardians in the district office if needed.</p> <p>On the date of Spanish Immersion lottery selection, a parent, guardian, or adult family representative (18 years or older) may attend the selection process. The location and time for the lottery selection process will be posted on the district website, district calendar, and will be emailed to the parent or guardian of each eligible student when the program application is confirmed as received.</p> <p>Parents or guardians of the twenty-nine (29) students who meet the eligibility requirements will be issued a letter confirming that a seat for their child is being held in the first grade Spanish Immersion class for the following school year. The remaining students will be placed on a waiting list in the order that they were selected during the lottery process and will be notified in that order if seats become available.</p> <p>Except for transfer students meeting requirements set forth below, no students will be enrolled after second grade.</p> <p>A student may be enrolled after second grade only if the student is transferring into the School District and can show evidence of enrollment in a public or private school Spanish Immersion program in the school from which the student is transferring; and the student's admission will not cause class enrollment to exceed 29 students.</p>
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