

## **Georgia's Dual Language Immersion Program Initiative**

In 2012, State Superintendent John Barge proposed that Georgia would have at least twenty dual language immersion programs by the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The goal of this proposal is to create a K-12 language roadmap for Georgia that will address the needs for language skills in business, government, and education.

Most Georgia dual language immersion programs use a fifty-fifty model, in which students spend half of their school day in the target language and the other half-day in English. These programs use two teachers, one who instructs exclusively in the target language for half of the day and a second who teaches in English for the remainder of the day.

From kindergarten through third grade, the target language curriculum includes literacy study and the majority of the content subjects (math, science, and social studies). The English curriculum focuses on English language arts, some collaborative reinforcement of the content, and Specials-art, music, PE. Teamwork is essential! The curriculum shifts in the fourth and fifth grades, as most conceptual instruction in math and social science is taught in English. Practical application of these subjects remains in the target language. Specific proficiency goals for every dual language immersion language are set at each grade level in all areas: reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

In middle school dual, language immersion programs will usually offer two courses: one content course in the target language and a second course in advanced language study. Participating students are expected to enroll in Advanced Placement language coursework and complete the AP exam in the ninth grade or tenth grade. In grades ten through twelve, students may be offered university-level coursework through blending learning with Georgia universities, or students are also encouraged to begin study of an additional language in high school. Through this articulated K-12 Georgia language roadmap, the state's students will enter universities or the global workforce equipped with truly valuable language and cultural skills at the Advanced Level of proficiency in all four skill areas (reading, writing, listen, and speaking).