Expert touts dual language program

When the new school year starts in August, there will be 14 schools across the state that are home to a dual language immersion program. And that number is likely to keep climbing.

Promoted by the Georgia Workforce Initiative (GWI), an organization associated with the Georgia Department of Education, the signature feature of the dual language program is that at least half of each school day is taught in a foreign language, including subjects such as math, science and social studies.

Most dual language programs start as early as kindergarten, but surprisingly, that doesn't seem to be a problem for children.

"It's really amazing. The first day or two can be tough, but they get used to it," said

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As asked about the cost for a school to set up a
language program, Barfield said additional
expenses are minimal.

"From a personnel point of view, it doesn't
cost any more, because you don't have to hire
any additional teachers. You have to make sure
you have a teacher on

staff who speaks the for-
gotten language fluently," he
said, explaining that the
only extra cost would
for come for materials or
sending teachers to con-
ferences.

"Parents who are inter-
ested should make an
appointment and speak

with their principal," he
said.

Additional informa-
tion on the dual language
immersion program can be
found at the Georgia
Department of Education's
website, under world lan-
guages and global initia-
tives.

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