



Position Statement: Spanish Language Program Advisory Committee

Bellevue PTSA Council joins with National PTA in calling for the support of educational choices within public schools and believes that parents should be involved in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of public school choice plans.

Bellevue PTSA Council also joins with the Washington State Superintendent and Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in calling for rigorous, thoughtful, and comprehensive language program access that encourages a minimum of dual language proficiency in core subjects, and that meets the individual needs of our student community, recognizing that “knowing how to communicate in multiple languages...in our increasingly diverse and globally interdependent world, is crucial to student success beyond high school.” [1]

In support of the goal of engaging families and school staff in equal partnership in decisions that affect children and families, we join with the Puesta del Sol PTA Board in calling for the creation of a Spanish Language Program Advisory Committee to include proportional representation from all stakeholders including but not limited to secondary students, parents, teachers and administrators from at least each of the following:

- Elementary ISA Language Program (Puesta del Sol)
- Middle School ISA Language Program (Tillicum)
- High School ISA Language (Newport, Sammamish)
- Elementary Dual Language Programs (Stevenson, Sherwood Forest, Lake Hills)
- Middle School Dual Language (Highland, Tillicum)
- High School Dual Language (Sammamish)
- K-12 Instructional Leader and Curriculum Developer for World Languages

The purpose of the committee would be to help advise District leaders regarding proposed program changes, as well as advocating for language programs in the long term to help ensure that the Dual Language and Immersion programs continue to thrive. A committee of this makeup would convene regularly to work together to inform, influence and create policies, practices, and programs that meet both community expectations and OSPI requirements.

[1] Payne, Katy. Director of Communications, OSPI. OSPI Awards Grants for Dual Language Programs, October 30, 2017. April 1, 2022.