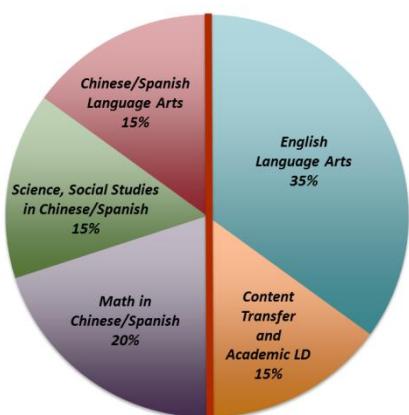




Delaware Immersion Model

What is immersion?

World Language Immersion Programs provide a unique learning environment that allows students to learn academic content in both English and a second language. Students benefit from the instruction of two highly-qualified classroom teachers. One teaches them for half of the day in English, and another teaches them for the other half of the day in the immersion language – either Chinese or Spanish. World Language Immersion students follow the same standards-based curriculum in all content areas that non-immersion students follow in any other Delaware elementary classroom.



What is taught in each language?

The instructional day is split so that students spend 150 minutes with their Chinese or Spanish language teacher and another 150 minutes with their English teacher. The Immersion-language teacher is responsible for teaching math, science, and Language Arts in the immersion language. In some districts, the immersion teacher also teaches portions of the social studies curriculum. The English language teacher teaches English Language Arts as well as elements of social studies from the Delaware Recommended Curriculum. They also reinforce math and science content by planning collaboratively with their partner teacher.

Why immersion?

More than forty years of research consistently documents the power of immersion education to help students attain high levels of world language proficiency. Young children especially thrive in this type of learning environment where learning a new language comes as naturally as learning their first one. The Immersion-language teacher speaks only in that language and communicates using a wide range of strategies including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, pantomime, drama to actively engage students in the learning process. In addition to high levels of language proficiency, longterm participation in immersion programs results in improved test performance, enhanced cognitive skills, and increased cultural sensitivity.



