



December 13, 2017

Patrick Stiles
7 Fieldcrest Drive
Montgomery, IL 60538

VIA EMAIL – tstiles724@sbcglobal.net

Re: FOIA Request Dated December 7, 2017 and received December 7, 2017

Subject: A copy of the:

1. Total cost per year from 2015 thru 2017 to operate Dual Language program.
2. Total number of kids in the program 2015 thru 2017.
3. How are students chosen to be in program?
4. Is the program a state requirement or an elective program?

Dear Mr. Stiles:

This letter will serve as Community Unit School District 308's response to your December 7, 2017 request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.), in which you asked for the above referenced information. The information responsive to your request is attached.

To promote district transparency and assist others who may have a similar question, this responsive document will be posted online on the district's website. To access it, go to www.sd308.org and select *Our District > Freedom of Information Act Request > FOIA Request Responses*, then select *FOIA ID #17-31*.

Please be advised that to comply with your FOIA request, the district incurred an expense that comprised of the cost of labor and resources used to search for records responsive to your request.

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theresa Komitas".

Theresa Komitas
Freedom of Information Officer

Question 1: What is the total cost per year from 2015 through 2017 to operate the Dual Language (DL) Program?

The two-way Dual Language Program, which services English learners (ELs) and English speaker students, has the following associated “estimated” costs. The figures below do not include costs of core curriculum, physical education, music and library provided to all students.

Description	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Salaries and Benefits -DL Teachers and Teacher Assistants	\$1,039,705	\$1,064,877	\$1,354,443
Supplemental Supplies and Materials	\$218,306	\$187,925	\$142,533
DL Program Costs 2015 - 2017	\$1,258,011	\$1,252,802	\$1,496,976

*District does not readily maintain records directly related to the transportation costs associated with the DL Program.

Question 2: What is the total number of kids in the DL Program per year 2015 – 2017?

The two-way Dual Language Program, which services English learners (ELs) and English speaker students, had the following student enrollment for 2015-2017.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
K-8 Student Enrollment	375	340	436

Question 3: How are students chosen to be in the program?

The Dual Language Program includes both English learner (EL) students and English speaker students. EL families who prefer placement in Dual Language must express their interest by completing a DL application. EL students are given priority placement because it is the district’s EL Program for meeting the state requirement to provide Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) to qualifying students. The number of English speaker student spaces available directly corresponds with the Dual Language enrollment of EL students. Typically, there are fewer EL students requesting Dual Language placement than are English speaker students, making the number of spaces available to English speaker students lower than the actual interest. English speaker families must complete an application to indicate their interest. The application must be submitted to the EL Department in order to be considered for the selection process. A random and fair selection process is used to fill limited spaces available to English speaker students. Younger siblings of DL students automatically qualify for DL if parents are interested in pursuing the program for their incoming kindergartener. The sibling is not required to participate in the selection process.

Question 4: Is the program a state requirement or an elective program?

To meet federal requirements for educating EL students, Illinois School Code and Administrative School Code require school districts to provide either a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) or a Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI). A TBE Program is required when there are 20 or more EL students of the same language group in an attendance center. If an

attendance center has 19 or fewer EL students of the same language group, school districts may provide a TPI Program. While the Illinois Administrative Code outlines the required components of TBE and TPI Programs, it allows school districts to choose which TBE or TPI Program model(s) to implement. Oswego District 308 selected a two-way Dual Language Program as its TBE Program for serving English learners.