

This overview of the new Compañeros Program describes what will be in place during the 2014-2015 school year FOR 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE. The new Compañeros Program has been phased in one grade level at a time, one year at a time. In the fall of 2014, the new Compañeros Program will be fully implemented and the previous form of the Compañeros Program will be completely phased out.

**Type of Immersion Program:**

- Two-way bilingual program in which students learn to speak, read and write in English and Spanish

**Program Sites:**

- Bridgewater Elementary
- Greenvale Park Elementary
- Sibley Elementary

**Basic Description:**

- 50% of instruction is in English.
  - Half of all literacy instruction is in English.
  - Other content areas taught primarily in English: Science, Social Studies, Health, Specials
- 50% of instruction is in Spanish.
  - Half of all literacy instruction is in Spanish.
  - Other content areas taught primarily in Spanish: Math, Morning Meeting

**Type of Classroom:**

- One self-contained Compañeros classroom per grade level at each elementary building by the fall of 2014
  - The self-contained approach allows for flexible grouping between the Contemporary and Compañeros Programs, which provides the means to more effectively meet students at their instructional levels.
  - The self-contained approach also allows for more instructional flexibility within the Compañeros classrooms to ensure the 50/50 split for instruction in each language.

**Entrance Criteria:**

- Parent/guardian choice
- Literacy evaluation for entry beyond grade 1

**Student Make-up:**

- Ideally 50% native English speakers and 50% native Spanish speakers, or a minimum of 1/3 of one group and 2/3 of the other group

**Lottery:**

- A controlled lottery is necessary to ensure a balance of native-English-speaking and native-Spanish-speaking students in each classroom; consequently, some requests may not be honored.

**Implementation Strategy:**

- Start with one two-way section of 1st grade in all three elementary buildings in the fall of 2010; phase in one grade level each subsequent year. Implementation schedule is as follows:
  - One 1<sup>st</sup> grade section of two-way Compañeros at each elementary building: Fall 2010
  - One 2<sup>nd</sup> grade section of two-way Compañeros at each elementary building: Fall 2011
  - One 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section of two-way Compañeros at each elementary building: Fall 2012
  - One 4<sup>th</sup> grade section of two-way Compañeros at each elementary building: Fall 2013
  - One 5<sup>th</sup> grade section of two-way Compañeros at each elementary building: Fall 2014