



## ESCONDIDO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

890 Escondido Road, Stanford, CA 94305  
Telephone 650/856-1337 Fax 650/424-1079

# Spanish Immersion Program Information

### About Two-Way Immersion Education

Two-way immersion is an educational model for acquiring two languages while doing regular schoolwork. In immersion classes, standard school subjects are taught in one of two languages, but not in both. Language is acquired and developed by using it as a *means* for instruction; language is not the *object* of instruction (as in foreign language classes). In this manner, students become fluent and literate in *both* languages, while they follow the same curriculum that is taught only in English in non-immersion classes. Goals of Two-Way Immersion programs are: bilingual proficiency and literacy in two languages, academic performance at or above grade level in both languages, high levels of self-esteem and positive cross-cultural attitudes.

To accomplish its goals, a two-way immersion program follows a unique instructional design in which Spanish speaking and English-speaking students are combined in the same classroom, with at least one-third of the students being native speakers of each language. Escondido follows an 80/20 Spanish Immersion model. This model emphasizes the use of Spanish in the early grades, and it is the most appropriate one for Escondido, since there are more students whose native language is English, and Spanish speakers are in a predominantly English-speaking environment. In grades K-2, 80% of classroom instruction is in Spanish. Instruction in English increases to 50% by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### About the PAUSD Spanish Immersion Program

The first Spanish Immersion kindergarten class started in September 1995. To fully evaluate the program, the PAUSD Board of Education assigned Spanish Immersion 'pilot' status in January 1998. In November 2000, after favorable evaluation, the board assigned the program 'on-going' status. As an 'on-going' program, Spanish Immersion will continue to enroll students each and every year.

At the elementary school level, the program was initially located at Fairmeadow School and subsequently moved to Escondido School, its current location, in the fall of 1997. Currently, there are approximately 44 students per grade level in the Spanish Immersion program at Escondido. The middle school program (grades 6-8) is at Jordan.

Transportation to the Spanish Immersion Program is the responsibility of the parents, except for Voluntary Transfer Program students which, as for all schools, is the responsibility of the District.

The Spanish Immersion Program is open for enrollment to all PAUSD students. Students are selected by lottery (see Lottery and Enrollment Guidelines.)

**Questions?** Please call Escondido Elementary School Office at 856-1337, ext 4653.

**For more information, please see:** Lottery and Enrollment Guidelines