



January 2014

SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

LOTTERY AND ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

The selection process for the Spanish Immersion Program is conducted by lottery. The program is open for enrollment to all students in the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD). Please review the following information carefully before placing your child's name in the lottery.

- 1. Parents/Guardians are required to understand the goals of Two-Way Immersion**
Before submitting a lottery card, read the information packet, attend the parent information meeting, Thursday, January 30, 2014 and one of the three classroom visitation days, February 7, 10, or 18. For parents that cannot attend the information meeting you must view the video about Immersion, which is available in the Escondido office.
- 2. All program applicants including siblings must enter a lottery card**
To be considered for the program. Lottery cards will be made available following the classroom visits.
- 3. All program applicants must be registered in the Palo Alto Unified School District.**
To be included in the initial kindergarten lottery, the applicant must be registered for kindergarten by February 13, 2014. All other program applicants must be registered for their neighborhood school in the Palo Alto Unified School District. If the child is not registered and their name is drawn, their selection will be withdrawn.

Students who turn in lottery cards retain their space at their neighborhood school until the parent/guardian signs an intradistrict transfer to the Spanish Immersion Program after being selected in the lottery.

- 4. Kindergarten enrollment, deadlines, lottery, wait list**
Enrollment is open to all PAUSD students, including those students participating in the Voluntary Transfer Program.
 - Siblings: Siblings of current Escondido students (who must also be Escondido students at the time the incoming kindergarten student begins school) have first priority. They have space in the program, as long as they follow all registration requirements (including registration at the district and turning in a Lottery card at Escondido).
 - Spanish/English Proportion
One third of the 44 spaces are for Spanish speakers, two-thirds are for English speakers. Spanish speakers are children who are fluent in Spanish (and may also be fluent in English or other language). English speakers are children who are fluent in English but not Spanish.

Lottery:

After spaces are assigned to siblings (as defined above), the remainder of the 44 spaces are filled with names drawn by a lottery, while keeping the Spanish/English proportion.

The initial lottery drawing will be held March 4, 2014 with notification thereafter. Deadline for program acceptance is March 6, 2014.

Deadlines:

Applicants must also be registered for kindergarten in the PAUSD by February 13, 2014. Lottery cards received after the closing of the kindergarten registration date will be kept on file in case an opening should occur at a future date. All lottery cards for the initial kindergarten lottery drawing must be turned into the Escondido School Office by the kindergarten registration deadline, February 27, 2014.

Wait List

Lottery cards not drawn in the original lottery will be kept on file until the end of kindergarten, in case an opening should occur at a future date. If a name is drawn, and the applicant does not begin the program, then the lottery card is removed from the pool.

5. First through fifth grade enrollment

In order to apply for the Spanish Immersion program in grades 1-5 registration cards may be turned in at any time during the year at the Escondido School Office. Registration cards will be kept on file. As openings occur, parents will be contacted in the order of dated application. All students entering grades 1-5 will have their Spanish skills assessed, in order to determine if they are within the acceptable range for the grade they will enter.

