Starting in the 2020-2021 school year EPCUSD 401 will begin the transition of a Dual Language One-Way Transitional Bilingual Education Program. This program will grow to kindergarten and first grade in the 2021-2022 school year and will continue as we see the growth in numbers.

What is Dual Language?
Dual language is a form of bilingual education in which students are taught literacy and content in two languages. Programs typically start in kindergarten and extend as the classes are filled with EL learners. Programming may continue into middle school and high school. Dual language programs foster multiculturalism, multilingualism, and high levels of academic achievement through instruction in two languages. EPCUSD 401 will begin the 2020-2021 school year with the One-Way Dual Language program at kindergarten.

One-Way Dual Language: All recommended students enrolled in this model are Spanish dominant speakers only. This model meets the State of Illinois requirements for bilingual education. Dual Language One Way serves only English learners from the same language background in a self-contained classroom with the goal of bilingualism and biliteracy. ESL instruction is provided.

Instruction is provided in the native language of the student and in English. This program provides 50% instruction in the native language and 50% instruction in English. This is a late-exit program which means that students may remain in the class even if they meet the state exiting requirements.

Instruction includes the history and culture of the countries of the parents as well as the United States.

Within dual language education, students develop high levels of multiculturalism, multilingualism, academic, and cross-cultural competencies through instruction in two languages. The effectiveness of dual language education has been well documented within and outside the United States over the years.