

Program Description:

The South Summit School District Dual Immersion Program is modeled after the Utah Spanish Dual Immersion Program in that instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English and one Spanish. Students enjoy the advantage of two caring and qualified teachers. The English-speaking teacher uses half of the instructional day to teach English language arts and other elements of the curriculum; the Spanish-speaking teacher uses the other half of the day to teach Spanish language arts and portions of the math, social studies, science, and other topics from the grade-appropriate level of the Utah State Core Curriculum. For instance, in the morning, class A, which is first grade, would be taught core first grade essentials in English. While next door, class B, which is second grade, would be taught core second grade essentials in Spanish. At midday, classes switch and the opposite language is instructed. Language is taught through the content areas, with support given to the new language learners.

The Spanish Dual Immersion Program is offered at South Summit Elementary School starting in first grade. Approximately 22 students are admitted to the program each year. Students are expected to remain in the program throughout their elementary and middle school experience. The goal of the district is to offer Dual Language Immersion Programs K-5 with modified programs 6-12.

Benefits of the Dual Immersion Program:

Second Language Skills: Students achieve high proficiency levels in reading, writing, speaking and comprehension in both languages. They are able to compare or analyze languages and capitalize on learned skills in both languages. Immersion students perform as well as, or better than, non-immersion students on standardized tests of English and math administered in English.

Enhanced Cognitive Skills: Immersion students typically develop greater cognitive flexibility, demonstrating increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem solving skills as well as an enhanced understanding of their primary language.

Increased Cultural Sensitivity: Immersion students are more aware of and show more positive attitudes towards other cultures and an appreciation of other people.

Long Term Benefits: Immersion students are better prepared for the global community and job markets where a second language is an asset. There is a greater graduation rate for students in Dual Immersion.

Who can participate?

The Dual Immersion Program seeks to enroll students of varying backgrounds and all abilities. Applications are open to all students entering first grade at South Summit Elementary School.

Benchmark/Grade Level Proficiency:

Please think about the following suggestions to consider if this is the appropriate program for your child:

1. Has your child mastered grade level benchmarks (Student has strong blue indicators) for Kindergarten in both reading and math?
2. What is the social maturity level of my child? How does my child respond to new situations? Does my child possess tenacity and grit when faced with challenging tasks?

Enrollment

(Opens Wednesday, April 15th at 10:00 AM and Closes on Wednesday, April 22nd, at 3:00 PM)

How to Apply:

- Method: Send (via email only) the application to preregistration@ssummit.org

- **Application Forms will be emailed in the kindergarten Parent Alert, they will be available on our website and will be sent home on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. No applications will be accepted before this time.**
- **Important:** Do NOT send a paper copy or send the application to school with your child

How Students are Selected:

While the program is primarily first-come, first-served, we have updated our process to be more balanced and transparent.

Applications received during the first five minutes (10:00 AM – 10:05 AM) on the opening day, will be prioritized, but acceptance is not guaranteed. To create the best learning environment, we also consider:

- **Gender Balance:** Aiming for a 50/50 mix.
- **Language Balance:** Aiming for a 50/50 mix of native English and native Spanish speakers.
- **Attendance:** Consistent attendance in Kindergarten.

Note: There is no "grandfathering" into the program. Even if a sibling is already enrolled, you must submit a new application for your child.

Pro-Tip for Success:

This program is very popular and spaces fill up fast. We recommend having your email drafted and ready to send exactly at 10:00 AM on the application day.

Initial enrollment in the first grade program is determined by a first selection (first come, first served) and a second selection process (waiting list). If the number of students exceeds the maximum enrollment, then the additional applicants will be placed on a wait list according to the date and time when the application was received at the school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Notification of selection and placement on a waiting list will be sent out on Friday, April 24, 2026. **Those who are selected to participate in the program, must return the parent commitment form via email by 3:30 pm on Monday, April 27, 2026. If we do not receive the commitment form, your spot will be given to another student on the waiting list.** If the original number of students to fill the dual immersion class is not filled, spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis using those applications placed on the waiting list.

All dual immersion registration and application information will be available on the Elementary school website: <https://www.ssummit.org/o/elementary>.