

“Utah’s dual language immersion programs help to prepare our students for the jobs of tomorrow. Dual language immersion gives students a tremendous and early advantage in learning to navigate the national, cultural, and linguistic complexities inherent in our increasingly global marketplace.”

—GOV. GARY HERBERT,
UTAH STATE GOVERNOR

“In this increasingly competitive world, it is critical for Utah students to be able to deliver services and information in various languages and appreciate the subtleties of doing business in other cultures, much of which is learned through language study.”

—HOWARD STEPHENSON,
UTAH STATE SENATOR

“Utah’s dual language immersion program effectively provides an excellent strategy for Utah students to realize their potential to become an advanced multilingual workforce, better prepared for the challenges of the world economy”

—LEW CRAMER,
PRESIDENT WORLD TRADE CENTER UTAH



The Utah State Office of Education is proud to support dual language immersion programs in Utah public elementary schools in Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish.

For more information:
www.utahdli.org
www.utahportugueseimmersion.org

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Utah Governor's Office of
Economic Development
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UTAH
WORLD
TRADE
CENTER

Utah's PORTUGUESE

Dual Language Immersion Program

*Offering children the gift
of a second language.*

ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Rocky Mountain Elementary

CACHE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sunrise Elementary

JORDAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Bluffdale Elementary

LOGAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hillcrest Elementary

PROVO CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Lakeview Elementary

TOOELE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Sterling Elementary

WHY IMMERSION?

More than forty years of research consistently documents the power of language immersion programs to help students attain high levels of second language proficiency. No other type of instruction, short of living in a second language environment, is as successful.

Young children especially thrive in this type of instructional environment. Fortunately, language immersion is also the least expensive way to deliver second language instruction.

PROVEN BENEFITS

Second Language Skills

Students achieve high proficiency in the immersion language.

Improved Performance on Standardized Tests

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 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.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Maximize students' second language proficiency
- Provide a rich academic environment
- Develop students' abilities to work successfully in multiple cultural settings
- Offer a rich, culturally diverse experience for the entire school community



WHAT TO EXPECT IN A DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAM

Dual language immersion offers a rich bilingual experience for young learners when their minds are developmentally best able to acquire a second language.

Instruction is divided between two high quality, creative classrooms: one English, one Portuguese.

Students enjoy the advantage of two caring, qualified teachers. The English-speaking teacher uses half of the instructional day to teach English language arts (reading, writing, and spelling) and reinforce other subjects (science, social studies, math, etc.).

The Portuguese-speaking teacher uses the other half of the day to teach Portuguese language arts, math, science, and social studies as defined by the Utah State Core Curriculum.

In class, the Portuguese teacher speaks only in Portuguese and communicates using a range of engaging strategies including pictures, songs, games, body language, expressions, drama, pantomime, etc. Children at this age are adept at picking up language in meaningful contexts. After a brief period at the beginning of the year, students too will speak only in Portuguese during Portuguese class.

You'll be delighted at how quickly your child becomes a comfortable and competent Portuguese speaker.

WHY PORTUGUESE?

- With over 250 million speakers, Portuguese is the sixth most widely spoken language in the world, and is the official language of nine countries, including Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, and Portugal. The size of Brazil makes Portuguese the most widely spoken language in South America.
- In 2011, the United States government declared Portuguese a critical language for learning due to a low supply and growing demand for American Portuguese speakers.
- Utah boasts a large Portuguese-speaking community composed of native Brazilians and LDS returned missionaries who have served in over 35 Portuguese-speaking missions around the world.
- Portugal has produced some of the world's greatest explorers and literature. Brazil is famous for samba and bossa nova music, Carnaval, capoeira, and its five World Cup titles in soccer. Brazil is also a major tourist destination, boasting the Amazon rainforest and some of the world's most beautiful beaches.
- Portuguese is a good springboard to learning other Romance languages. Students who speak Portuguese can generally understand and learn Spanish with little difficulty. Similarly, Spanish-speaking students thrive in Portuguese immersion classrooms.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- commit to long-term participation in the language immersion program
- develop an understanding of language immersion education
- read with your child (in English) for twenty minutes daily
- encourage the use of Portuguese outside of school
- provide community support and, when possible, volunteer
- enjoy the challenges; celebrate the results

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The dual language immersion program seeks to enroll students of varying backgrounds and all abilities. Applications are open to all students entering first grade.

HOW TO ENROLL MY CHILD

For more information about enrolling your child in one of Utah's Portuguese dual immersion programs, please contact one of the participating schools.