



Dual Immersion in Utah is a program in which students spend half the day in English with one teacher and half the day with another teacher in a second language, or L2. This 50/50 instructional model offers students the opportunity to become skilled in the L2 and gain increased cultural competency. Most subjects are taught in both languages, but each language is used exclusively during its designated instructional block. It's not a new idea – the first Dual Immersion program in Canada began in 1963 – although it is relatively new to Utah. There are two types of Dual Immersion programs currently found in Utah schools:

**One-way Immersion programs serve one group:**

This program serves a student population comprised of a predominant majority of native English language speakers with limited to no proficiency in the L2 (e.g. Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, etc.).

**Two-way Immersion programs serve two groups:**

This program serves English speakers and L2 speakers. A 1:1 ratio is the ideal ratio to be maintained for these two language groups, but a minimum requirement is a 2:1 ratio, or at least one-third of students native speakers of the L2. Two-way Immersion programs are sometimes called two-way bilingual or Dual Language.

### **Teacher Qualifications** (Effective the 2011-12 school year)

1. **Teaching License:** English Teachers are required to have an elementary Utah teaching license. Second Language Teachers (Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish) are required to have an elementary or secondary Utah teaching license, or be accepted into the Alternative Routes to Licensure (ARL) program.
2. **Endorsements:** Second Language Teachers (Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish) are required to have a World Language endorsement in the immersion language and a Dual Immersion endorsement.

### **The Benefits of Dual Immersion**

1. **Second Language Skills:** Students achieve high proficiency in the immersion language.
2. **Performance on Standardized Tests:** Immersion students perform as well as or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests in English.
3. **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.
4. **Cultural Competency:** Immersion students are more aware of and generally show more positive attitudes towards other cultures and an appreciation of other people.
5. **Long Term Benefits:** Immersion students are better prepared for the global community and job markets where 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are an asset.