



What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21st Century?

What Needs To Be Included and What Actions Can We Take:
Lessons Learned from the Past and New ideas for Today

Open Space Report: New York City

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following. When you're finished, please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!

1. Names of group members

Vivan Bueno (facilitator)
Marie Colomer (facilitator)
Lilly Ardell
Narda Morossini
Mildred Tamarez
Mariel Frank
Julie Hirochler
Maryun Thame
Katie Kurjakovic
Christa Gesztes
Patrick Coonan
Miriam Lopez

2. Issue/Topic/Activity

Creating a quality K-8 Dual Language Program (speaking from the experiences of an Asst. Principal and teachers from The Rafael Herndandez Dual Language School, PS/IS 218)

3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps

- 7 years ago, a small group of parents researched dual language programs. They realized PS/IS 218 wasn't delivering on their mission to provide a quality DL program to their children, so they went to the region to bring in a new administration that would implement a quality DL program.
- Now the school is K-8 Dual Language
 - 2-way dual immersion
 - 50-50 model
 - 1/3 native ENG speakers, 1/3 native SPN speakers, 1/3 bilingual speakers
- A series of orientation sessions for incoming parents of Kindergarten students
 - Speaks to the clear message our administration sends to parents about the mission, goals and expectations of our program
 - Roughly 300+ parents apply each year for 100 spots
- What makes our program a "quality" Dual Language program?
 - We have received an A on our school report card for 4 years straight
 - Our teachers routinely engage in action research to increase achievement levels across all subject areas...in two languages
 - There are multiple professional development opportunities for teachers to improve their professional arsenal of resources.

- Our schedule provides teachers with multiple periods to collaborate on curriculum, looking at student data, and developing student portfolios
- We hold parent workshops on new units of study, to support them in school projects, and they help run cultural celebrations (ie: Puerto Rican Independence, 5 de Mayo...)
- We have side by side, self-contained and CTT classrooms
- We use the same citywide assessments for our students' English language proficiency (NYSESLAT and ECLASS and LAB-R)
- Moving forward, we need to incorporate more technology, specifically on a parent-outreach level.

4. Available Resources

5. Follow-up requests

If anyone wants to visit our school, the information is:

PS/IS 218

1220 Gerard Ave

Bronx, NY 10452