

AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- I. **Public Education Commission Meeting Date:** May 14, 2021
- II. **Item Title:** Discussion and Possible Action on Educational Program Amendment Request - Albuquerque Bilingual Academy
- III. **Executive Summary:**
PEC will discuss and possibly act on Albuquerque Bilingual Academy's amendment request

Request: Albuquerque Bilingual Academy requests to add a Heritage Model to their educational program.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (redline edits):

Albuquerque Bilingual Academy (ABA) provides instruction in two languages. Bilingual Education programs offered by ABA range between one and three hours of target language instruction. The primary ~~This~~ method of delivery in educational research literature is identified as a Dual Language Model where two languages are used. At ABA, instruction is provided 50% of the time in English and 50% in Spanish for those students who opt in to the dual language program, which results in three hours of target language instruction for students. This dual language model serves over 80% of ABA students. ABA also utilizes the heritage model to serve 20% of ABA students who opt-in to a one or two hour program. Through the dual language and heritage models, ~~S~~students demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.

- i. Bilingual education is the foundation of the ABA charter. ABA implements the dual language model of bilingual education that allows students to receive three hours of instruction in their home and target languages, resulting in three hours in Spanish as well as three hours of instruction in English. The bilingual education experience is said to "shape the brain for a lifetime." The ABA BMEP Instructional Plan requires that students receive Spanish content instruction in the following subject areas: social studies, math, Spanish language arts, and; the following English content instruction: science, English language arts, math support, ELD (falls on the Spanish instructional side, but is provided by the TESOL certified instructor at each grade level). ABA utilizes the Heritage model, which serves as the school's second bilingual education program offering. The heritage model serves 20% of ABA students who opt-in to a one to two hour program as opposed to the full three hour dual language immersion program. Both programs offer Spanish as the target language for participating students and are available as options for new and returning students.

- ii. Blended learning is employed throughout ABA with various models implemented depending on student readiness. Digital core and supplemental curriculum programs are utilized to personalize a learning path for students.
- iii. Student data binders: Each homeroom teacher is required to maintain data folders for their students. These data binders contain goal setting worksheets, monthly calendars, and assessment data. Students are required to keep track of their daily attendance through the use of the monthly calendars. Students also keep track of their assessment data from multiple sources such as short cycle assessments, classroom tests and quizzes, and formal writing samples. These data binders are readily available upon request and shared with parents and stakeholders when necessary. At the end of each school year, these data binders are collected and passed onto the next classroom teacher. This is done so that they have a beneficial reference tool they can then use to plan instruction with regards to their incoming class.
- iv. Student data profiles: ABA teachers maintain student data profile sheets on each student in their homeroom class. These profile sheets provide a brief snapshot of the student's assessment results from different assessments administered throughout the academic year.
- v. A ~~Dual~~ Bilingual Language Models works when teachers have the appropriate training to deliver the designated content in the target language. Teachers who provide instruction in Spanish are required to have an endorsement in Bilingual Education. Teachers who provide instruction in English, especially to English language learners must be endorsed in TESOL (Teaching English to Students of Other Languages). Data-driven differentiated instruction is built into each teacher-developed unit plan. Small flexible groups are formed and used during daily instruction to meet the individual needs of ABA students.
- vi. Each month, according to designated days on the school calendar, parent connections and workshops are held after school. Events may include home visits (fall), Open House, Harvest Festival, Science Fair, Literacy Night, Math Night, Winter Program, Cinco De Mayo celebration, Parent-Student Dances, Kindergarten Promotion, and Eighth Grade Promotion. In addition, multiple Parent Teacher Conferences are held throughout the academic year.