

First 5 San Joaquin Preschool Program Tracy Unified School District Supporting Dual Language Learners



The Tracy Unified School District (TUSD) receives funding from First 5 San Joaquin to support preschools that serve vulnerable children and families. This includes children who are learning English as a second language (i.e., dual language learners).

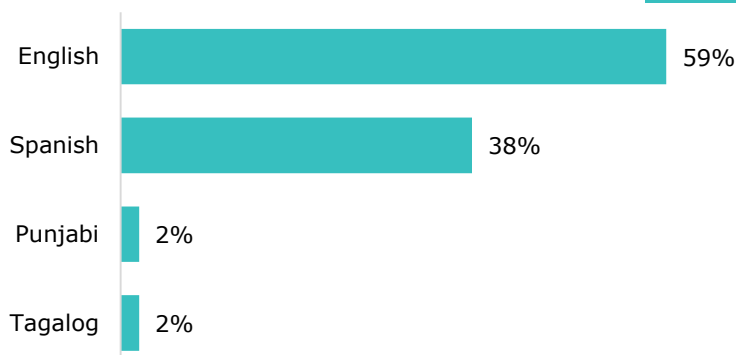
The purpose of this brief is to highlight the key strategies used across First 5 San Joaquin funded preschool programs to support and engage dual language learners and their families. It also presents data specific to TUSD First 5 Preschools. This includes the diversity of languages spoken by children in their care as well as the impact of their engagement efforts on participating dual language learners, their families, and classroom quality.

Strategies to Engage Dual Language Learners and their Families

First 5 San Joaquin preschools implement a number of strategies to welcome, support, and engage dual language learners and their families. They include:

- **Materials in multiple languages** to support children’s early literacy and language development in English and their primary language.
- **Parent Advisory Meetings** with translation services to keep families informed and engaged.
- **Staff** that represent the different cultures and languages of children and families in their care.
- **Professional development** to help teachers increase their capacity to support dual language learners and their families.
- **Asset-based approaches** to recognize all home languages as contributing to the learning environment.

Languages Spoken by Preschool Children



Percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding of decimal places.

In Fiscal Year 2018-2019, TUSD First 5 Preschools served 63 children ages 3-5 across two sites: North and Villalovoz Elementary Schools. Of the children who participated, 59 percent spoke English as their primary language, 38 percent spoke Spanish, and two percent spoke Punjabi or Tagalog.

Supporting Dual Language Learner's Early Literacy Development

TUSD First 5 Preschools include several strategies to help dual language learners develop their early literacy skills. These strategies include:

Using parent helpers in the classroom - This approach also helps to build relationships between teachers, staff, and parents.

Including experiential learning - Using real world examples and physical objects during lessons helps children attach meanings to their senses and experiences.

Using innovative methods, such as Google translate - This strategy supports children and families who speak languages other than those spoken by teachers or staff.



100% of TUSD First 5 classrooms met quality standards for using practices that promote diversity



100% of TUSD First 5 classrooms were rated as meeting quality standards related to emotional support, classroom organization, and instructional support



71% of dual language learners were "building" or "integrating" symbol, letter, and print knowledge in English at the end of the program, compared to just 16 percent at the start of the program

"When I am focusing on language development, I have my visual cards for the English learners. So I show the pictures and then I say it in English and then follow up in Spanish."

-TUSD teacher

Engaging Parents of Dual Language Learners

Of the parents of dual language learners who completed a parent satisfaction survey...

100%



reported they have a positive relationship with their child's TUSD preschool teacher

100%



reported their TUSD preschool teacher involves them in their child's education

96%



reported their TUSD preschool communicates with them in a language they feel comfortable

TUSD First 5 Preschools highlight their strong engagement with parents as key to the effectiveness of their program. Staff primarily engage parents through the following:

Sending weekly parent communication folders - Folders include information about what is being taught in the classroom as well as upcoming community events.

Holding monthly parent workshops - Workshops are often translated into Spanish by one of the preschool teachers or parents.

Holding parent conferences - Conferences provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss the child's progress and opportunities for growth.

For more information call **(209) 830-3355** or visit **www.tracy.k12.ca.us**

"The preschool is very informative and does an excellent job of keeping parents in the loop."

- TUSD parent of a dual language learner