Dual Language Strand Within a School: Developing a school-wide commitment to bilingualism

CABE 2019
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The Plan...

- Background
- Importance of school-wide support & commitment
- Model Implemented at Hamilton Elementary
- Lessons Learned
- Applying the model at your sites
- Q&A
Background: Hamilton Elementary

HUSD: Hamilton City, CA
population: 1,708

Students enrolled TK-12: 718
HHS: 288
HES: 423

93% Hispanic/Latino
33.9% EL Students
90.8% Low S.E
Background: Hamilton Elementary

HES - 12 (TK-5) Teachers
  8 Bilingual

8 (6th-8th) Teachers
  1 bilingual

Our Why?
Importance of school-wide support & commitment to bilingualism and bilingual education
Offering bilingual education would be impossible without bilingual teachers, yet they...

- Experience heavy workloads
- Face need to challenge unequal distribution of resources & lack of support
- Often feel isolated and marginalized from colleagues

As a school, we say we value bilingualism...

- Do we provide opportunities for students to use their multiple languages in all of our classrooms?
- Do we support bilingual teachers’ Spanish communication across school spaces?
- Are we willing to share our time & resources to support bilingual teachers and their students?
Model Implemented at Hamilton Elementary
What we did

- Brief history of bilingual education in the U.S.
  - Historical timeline of bilingual education
  - Bilingual Education Act, Lau v. Nichols, Prop 227, Prop 58
- Grounding our understanding of bilingualism
  - Benefits of bilingualism
  - Very few bilinguals are balanced bilinguals
  - We never stop acquiring a language
- Connecting to practice
Developing a collaborative vision & commitment to bilingualism

“I will allow students to use their primary language in the classroom even if they are not in the dual language program”

“I can start speaking Spanish to my colleagues that also speak Spanish”

“Add “bienvenidos” to my welcome sign in my classroom. Make sure my class website has translated material. Show off the little Spanish I know :)

“En mi salon yo voy a promover más el español. I will have más carteles, más opciones de lectura that the District will hopefully provide. I will be more accepting of the various forms of Español along with pushing the academic Spanish”
Developing a collaborative vision & commitment to bilingualism

Actions:

● Lessons for teachers who are non-Spanish speaking to give them a basic foundation in the language
● Equal educational access in the classroom for all academic areas (reading books, textbooks, posters, classroom materials, etc)
● Todo en español Fridays
A collaborative vision & commitment to bilingualism

- Revisit & re-assess the visions and commitments
- Introduce *translanguaging* and what it means for all teachers at HES
- Brainstorm how they can integrate *translanguaging* into their daily teaching
Lessons Learned

Challenges

- Only school in Hamilton City - strand
- Program model 90/10 or 50/50?
- Limited resources (Library)

Triumphs

- Community, teacher, admin, board support
- Expert consultation
- Parent Workshops
- Partnership with CSU, Chico
Lessons Learned

Next Steps

- Program Self Assessment
- Identify strengths/areas for growth
- Develop action plan
- Communicate to all stakeholders
How might you modify this model at your site?

- Take a couple of minutes to consider this question
- In groups of 3, share your ideas
- Whole group sharing
Questions? Comments?
¡Gracias!

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Extra Slides...
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/6 - 8/7</td>
<td>DL Implementation Workshop (2 x 4hr sessions)</td>
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