

ATTACHMENT X-B

ATTACHMENT X-B:	Approval of Bilingual Education Staffing
Suggested Motion:	Move to approve the Bilingual Education Staffing
Recommended Action:	Approve as presented.

Attached is a recommendation from Dr. Belcastro regarding our ESL and Bilingual staffing for next year. Historically we have provided ESL services and not certified bilingual instruction. Two years ago, we added bilingual instruction at Poplar Grove and last year, we added bilingual instruction to Capron.

As it is difficult to pass the ACCESS test in the primary grades, the fact most of our 3rd and 4th graders are passing seems to be a direct result of bilingual instruction. The one UE/MS student who passed out of needing ESL services for next year was not a native Spanish speaker.

If we do a better job of working with our ESL students at the K-4 level hopefully we will be able to reduce the ongoing need for ESL services at the upper grades excepting of course students who move in.

This recommendation doesn't increase staffing, but will require we hire another bilingual teacher and reassign the current ESL teacher at the NBMS/UE and MES to a traditional classroom assignment.

To: NBCUSD #200 Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Bridget E. Belcastro, ELL Director

DATE: May 16, 2014

RE: Bilingual Instruction

Recently, we received 2014 ACCESS scores from ISBE. ACCESS is a test that our ELL students take annually to assess their English language proficiency. Here is a breakdown of how many students passed the test this year.

CES (.6 Bilingual Teacher in the building)	11/45 = 24.4%
MES (.5 ELL Teacher in the building)	1/20 = 5%
PGE (.9 Bilingual Teacher in the building)	7/35 = 20%
UE/MS (.5 ELL Teacher in the building)	1/11 = 9%
NBHS (.1 Bilingual Teacher in the building)	3/12 = 25%
District TOTALS	21/123 = 17%

Additionally, the state requires a building to offer bilingual education to students if there are 20 ELLs between all grades within the building. Currently, both PGE and CES have greater than 20 ELLs in each building. We are offering bilingual education by a certified bilingual teacher in both of those buildings. As you can see from the numbers above, those are the buildings that saw a strong percentage of students who passed the test of English language proficiency comparatively.

Next year, Manchester Elementary School is on track to have 21 students who qualify for ELL services. Therefore, we may need to provide them with a certified bilingual teacher. Currently, they are being serviced part-time by a certified elementary teacher with an ELL endorsement.

Following is my recommendation for ELL/Bilingual Staffing for next year.

CES-- 45 ELL students. 1 full-time Bilingual Teacher
PGE--35 ELL students. 1 full-time Bilingual Teacher
MES-- 21 ELL students. 1 part-time Bilingual Teacher
UE/MS—6 ELL students (Based on current projections, the MS will have no ELL students next year), 2 Bilingual Paraprofessionals
NBHS—13 ELL students, 1 part-time Bilingual Teacher or ELL certified teacher

This would require hiring a bilingual teacher. This teacher would fill the shoes of the current staff member who is ELL certified. That teacher is also K-9 certified and could fill one of the open K-4 positions in the district. Therefore, we would not be hiring an additional staff member, and one of our elementary buildings would get the benefit of having a classroom teacher who was also ELL certified to provide guidance and input to the ELL team in servicing the needs of those students.

The hope in hiring a bilingual teacher in the district is that more of our students would pass the ACCESS test before they enter 5th grade. That would mean fewer students in our secondary schools would need services.

Due to our final ELL Parent Advisory Team meeting being on Monday, May 19, 2014, I will be unable to be present for the BOE meeting scheduled for that same night. Therefore, if you have any questions prior to that meeting, please feel free to call me or email me with your questions. I would be happy to provide you with any information you need.

Respectfully,

Dr. Bridget E. Belcastro