



## **Proposed Westside Elementary Second Language Programs**

### **Questions and Answers for Parents**

**January 2016**

### **Spanish Bilingual**

As the District is committed to offering second language programs, consideration is being given to providing an additional language choice at the elementary level. Currently, French is offered at the grade 4 and 5 level in all elementary schools. In the fall of 2017, the new elementary school in the Copperwood area will open and, if there is sufficient interest, a Spanish bilingual program will be offered. The school would then house both an English program and a Spanish Bilingual program.

#### **Would the program be available to students outside of the new elementary school attendance area?**

Yes, it would be a District program of choice available to all students. Transportation to the program would not be provided outside of the new elementary school attendance area.

#### **What grades would there be?**

As this would be the first Spanish bilingual program in the District, it would begin with kindergarten and grade one classes, with one grade level being added in each subsequent year.

#### **How is a bilingual program different from an immersion program?**

In an elementary immersion program, all subjects are taught in French with the exception of English Language Arts starting at grade 3. In a bilingual program, students study in the second language 50% of the time and English 50%.

#### **When would registration begin for the program?**

As it will be important to assess the level of interest in the program, parents who are interested in enrolling their child for the 2017 – 2018 school year will be asked to submit "intent to register" forms during the fall of the 2016 school year. Once it has been determined that there is enough interest for the program, students would be able to register in the spring of 2017.

#### **How do I find out more about these programs?**

Please visit the Lethbridge School District website at <http://www.lethsd.ab.ca>