

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 7.15 BILINGUAL INSTRUCTION AND BICULTURAL EDUCATION

(1) GENERAL PRINCIPLES

(a) The Board, by official action, has recognized and endorsed the importance of providing equal educational opportunities to language-minority students. Accordingly, the Board has approved bilingual/bicultural education as a developmental program from kindergarten through grade 12. The need for and importance of maximizing all children's language potential and cultural understanding and appreciation has also been recognized and endorsed by official actions of the Board.

(b) Pertinent federal legislation and the Bilingual/Bicultural Legislation Act (chapter 395, Wisconsin laws, 1975) support and require bilingual/bicultural education as a viable approach for providing equal educational opportunities for limited-English-ability students. There are also judicial and legal precedents that have found violations of the Civil Rights Act, Title VI, when bilingual/bicultural programs are nonexistent or non-available to students in need of them (*Serna v. Portales*; *Lau v. Nichols*).

(c) Bilingual/bicultural education and integration are compatible and feasible. Both efforts are attempts at providing equality of educational opportunity for students. Bilingual/bicultural education programs seek to enhance integration efforts as opposed to having a segregative effect. Social and cultural interaction are further assets to language and cultural maintenance.

(d) The bilingual/bicultural education program provides linguistically and culturally distinct students with an opportunity to experience early academic success in their first language while learning English. The program also provides opportunity for English-speaking students to learn a second language. It creates a multicultural environment wherein students' appreciation for their own and other cultures is encouraged.

(e) The Milwaukee Public Schools' bilingual/bicultural program mainly serves language-minority students enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools, but is available to any child.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Criteria shall be set, in accordance with chapter 395, to determine bilingual/bicultural needs and eligibility for bilingual/bicultural programs of language-minority students volunteering for specialty programs. Parents of students eligible for bilingual/bicultural educational programming shall be advised prior to the approval of any transfer request to a non-bilingual specialty program.

(b) The transportation of language-minority students to schools different than those in which they are enrolled shall take place in accordance with the student transfer policy and the Board-adopted transportation policy.

(c) Language-minority students' right to bilingual/bicultural educational programming shall always be observed in line with the principles of equality of educational opportunity and guided by the rules set forth by the Bilingual/Bicultural Education Act, chapter 395, Wisconsin laws, 1975. This also shall apply to other ethnic/language groups participating in bilingual/bicultural education programs.

(d) The special status of teachers in bilingual/bicultural educational programs with regard to seniority is recognized. Teachers needed in bilingual/bicultural educational programs shall be assigned and/or retained in schools in response to bilingual/bicultural educational needs.

History: Adopted 10-5-76; revised 2-22-95

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