



Expect
More.

Amigos Unidos Program Update

Presented to the School Board
May 19, 2026



Spanish Immersion Program Review

Meeting Purpose:

- Share a high-level summary of the recent program review conducted by Liz Hathaway Castelán Consulting
- Discuss what's ahead for 2026-27 and beyond



Current Context

- Program launched 2017–18; now K–8 with strong growth potential
- Talented, knowledgeable and committed staff
- Engaged families and students
- Some gaps in resources and alignment
- Opportunities to grow and expand - particularly at the secondary level



What Was Included In Review

- Student learning and language development
- Program structure and instructional model
- Parent and staff feedback
- Alignment with research and best practices
- Long-term program sustainability



Amigos Unidos Program Vision

- K–8 dual language Spanish immersion program, with high-level Spanish experiences at the high school level
- 2030 graduates (and beyond) who are bilingual, biliterate, culturally competent, academically strong
- College, career, and global ready - poised for success



Focus By Level

- **Grade K-6:** Develop strong Spanish literacy
- **Grades 6-12:** Focus on explicit writing and academic language instruction
- **Grade 12:** Students receive Seal of Biliteracy (reading, writing, speaking and listening)

Dual Language Immersion: Five Year Plan

Year	Focus	Key Actions	Outcomes
2025 - 26	Align	Audit K-8; Define targets; Research 9th+ courses; Align 6-8 model	Clear alignment K-8 with specialized courses 9th grade +
2026 - 27	Launch	Add grade 9 course; Strengthen 6-8: Add teacher training; Assessments	Strong transition to high school course offerings
2027 - 28	Build	Add grade 10 courses with analysis + argument writing and speaking	Ready for AP curriculum
2028 - 29	Validate	Add grade 11 AP Spanish Language and Culture; Assess results; Adjust	Successful cohort reaching goals
2029 - 30	Complete	Celebrate! Grade 12 cohort with Seal of Bilingualism awards	Full K-8 program with 9-12



Amigos Unidos: Elementary (K-5)

Areas identified for improvement:

- Professional development opportunities
- Literacy curriculum
- Consistent student experiences and alignment between grades
- Special Education and multilingual learner support
- Understanding of dual language immersion



Amigos Unidos: Elementary (K-5)

This Year

- ✓ Expanded Spanish resources/books in classrooms

Next Year

- ❑ Implement Benchmark Adelante literacy curriculum
- ❑ Provide training and professional development
- ❑ Provide staff planning time across elementary and middle school
- ❑ Offer collaborative student experiences grades 4-8
- ❑ Purchase approximately 700 Spanish language texts for media center



Amigos Unidos: Middle School (6-8)

Areas identified for improvement:

- English Language Arts gap for students
- Spanish Language Arts curriculum and text sets
- Spanish social studies curriculum
- Proficiency assessment required (STAMP) – 8th grade
- Transition to high school



Amigos Unidos: Middle School (6-8)

This Year

- ✓ Created agreement/commitment for students, families and school
- ✓ Created late entry assessment for middle school students
- ✓ Implemented STAMP 4S assessment for grade 8

Next Year

- ❑ Develop curriculum and resources grades 6-8 (SLA & Social Studies)
- ❑ Provide staff training and professional development
- ❑ Provide staff planning time across elementary and middle school
- ❑ Offer collaborative student experiences grades 4-8
- ❑ Create work group to consider middle school schedule models



High School Experiences (9-12)

Areas identified for improvement:

- Courses with authentic texts, themes and aligned to ACTFL proficiency targets
- Amigos Unidos cohort scheduling
- Proficiency Assessments - Grades 10 and 11 & 12
- Minnesota Seal of Bilingualism
- Student entry and retention



High School Experiences (9-12)

This Year

- ✓ Evaluated needs for high school
- ✓ Developed course descriptions and a scope and sequence for grades 9-12

Next Year

- ☐ Launch grade 9 courses in cohort scheduling
- ☐ Provide staff training and professional development
- ☐ Provide staff collaboration and curriculum writing time



Future High School Course Offerings

Grade 9: Temas Globales I

Grade 10: Temas Globales II

Grade 11-12:

- AP Spanish Language and Culture
- College in Schools Spanish 5
- College in Schools Spanish 6

Grade 12: Independent Research Capstone Project



District Level Support for Amigos Unidos

- Leadership structure and accountability
 - District Amigos Unidos Coordinator
 - Immersion leadership team to coordinate across levels
 - Monitor data, recruitment, and program growth
- Strategic recruitment and hiring of strong, bilingual staff
- Dedicated and sustained funding for curriculum writing, materials



Key Takeaways

- Dual language Spanish immersion is valued and will continue
- We have a strong foundation to build from
- Enhancing our middle school program and expanding high school learning experiences are a priority focus
- Improvement will be thoughtful and ongoing

Thank you for supporting
dual language Spanish immersion!

