

Proyecto Maestría Collaborative for Teacher Leadership in Bilingual/ESL Education



Proyecto Maestría Collaborative: A National Professional Development Project

In July 2007, UT Austin and AISD were the recipients of a 5 year federal grant whose goal is to *improve the quality* and *increase the quantity* of bilingual and ESL certified teachers in the Austin Metro area.

Proyecto Maestría Collaborative: A National Professional Development Project

- ▶ **Master's Project:**
 - ▶ Grant sponsors up to 12 master bilingual teachers per year to pursue Master's degrees in Bilingual/Bicultural Education at UT Austin to become teacher leaders and mentors in AISD.
- ▶ **Bilingual/ESL Summer Institute (BESI):**
 - ▶ Grant sponsors up to 30 certified PK through 12th grade teachers every summer to take graduate coursework at UT to prepare to enter bilingual or ESL classrooms.

Master's Project

Graduates serve as mentor teachers on their campuses, supporting the efficacy of their school's Bilingual Education programs and services.

Applicants must:

- ▶ have five years experience as a certified bilingual teacher
- ▶ show interest and/or participate in leadership and mentoring role on their campus
- ▶ be proficient in Spanish

[\(video\)](#) 

Bilingual/E.S.L. Summer Institute (BESI)

Graduates will be prepared to:

- Attain their bilingual or ESL credentials.
- Effectively serve English Learners in their classrooms

Applicants must:

- Be certified PK-12th teachers working in a school in the Austin area
- Commit to completing the program, taking their ESL/bilingual exams, and adding certification to SBEC to then serve English Learners

Coursework for Bilingual Education and ESL Supplemental Certificates

Bilingual Education	ESL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Applied Linguistics ▶ Methods of Teaching ESL ▶ Foundations of Bilingual Education ▶ Teaching Elementary School Subjects: Bilingual Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Applied Linguistics ▶ Methods of Teaching ESL ▶ Teaching Culture ▶ Second Language Acquisition

UT's role...

- ✓ Publicize program, recruit and support teachers through the application process and coursework.
- ✓ Provide qualified instructors for courses.
- ✓ Work with teachers and administrators to ensure coursework meets school's needs and prepares teachers for certification.
- ✓ Ensure courses fulfill requirements for UT credit
- ✓ Defray tuition fees for participants.

AISD's role...

- ▶ Support publicity and dissemination efforts
- ▶ Channel qualified personnel into project
- ▶ When available: support participation with professional development funds (first year: Title III)

Campus administrators' role...

- ✓ Recruit and nominate teachers who meet the criteria
- ✓ Commit to make use of the program to improve school wide services to ELLs and provide ongoing support to participating teachers.
- ✓ Write letters of recommendation/support for participants' applications
- ✓ Agree to support participants in fulfilling all program requirements

Successes

- ✓ First cohort of 15 participants: 14 completed December 2009; taking certification exams.
- ✓ Second cohort of 12 begins June 2010.
- ✓ Publicity and outreach already begun for Year III.
- ✓ Teacher participants speak highly of the experience:
 - ✓ Power of the multi-campus, multi-grade cohort
 - ✓ Classroom/teaching skills
 - ✓ Appreciation for EL students and the wealth of cultural/linguistic experiences they bring to the classroom

Challenges:

- ▶ Motivation for Summer ESL Certification Program in Texas Policy Context?
- ▶ Supporting interested candidates through complex graduate school application process; making university "teacher-friendly"
- ▶ As graduates move on: maintaining support networks and engagement
- ▶ Bilingual Summer Institute?

Proyecto Maestría Collaborative

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