

Spanish Immersion Program Enrollment Procedures

1. **Application:** Spanish Immersion applications will be accepted beginning the first day of school the year **preceding** the child's kindergarten year.
 - a. Spanish Immersion Program Applications must be completed online: [Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School – Spanish Immersion Program Application](#)
Non-Sioux Falls School District Residents: If your residence is located outside the Sioux Falls School District boundaries, you must submit an open enrollment application along with your Spanish Immersion Program Application. **Acceptance into the Spanish Immersion Program is contingent upon the approval of your open enrollment application.** Failure to submit an open enrollment application may prohibit your student from being able to enter the lottery/program.

Completed applications must be submitted online. Paper applications will not be accepted. Applications will be date and time stamped electronically upon submission. Applications from siblings currently enrolled in the Spanish Immersion Program and Spanish Immersion Program staff children will be marked "sibling/staff". All other applications will receive a number (if there is a family with more than one application, e.g. twins or siblings, those applications will receive the same number).

The application deadline is 5:00pm on the second Tuesday of January for the following school year.

2. **Priority for Acceptance:** Our acceptance procedure follows these priorities:
 1. **Siblings:** Sibling(s) currently enrolled in the Spanish Immersion Program and Spanish Immersion Program staff children **whose application is submitted by the January deadline.**
 2. **Age Qualified but Withheld:** Students, who after acceptance in the year the student turned 5*, but after consultation with a program Administrator a decision was made for the student to wait another year, **whose application is submitted by the January deadline.** *For student success in this program, it is recommended that the student be ready socially, as well as academically.
 3. **Lottery:** If spaces remain after Siblings/SI Staff and Age Qualified children have been accepted, the Sioux Falls School District will conduct a lottery to fill the remaining spaces with students whose application is submitted by the January deadline.

Lottery Process: Sonia Sotomayor staff will deliver a list of all applications to the Director of Curriculum by noon on the Thursday following the application due date. The Director of Curriculum will use a random number generator to determine the order of the applications. The Director of Curriculum will compile the official list of the applications in order according to the random number generator. A line will be drawn indicating where the open slots available end and the wait list begins.

4. **Applications Received After Deadline**: Any application received after the application deadline (see Paragraph 1 above) will be placed on the waitlist in date and time stamp order that the application was submitted electronically.
5. **Notification**: The principal of Sonia Sotomayor will notify applicants of acceptance/placement and waitlist by email by the 3rd Tuesday in January.

Sonia Sotomayor principal and clerical will monitor enrollments and changes and contact people on the waitlist as openings become available.
6. **Withdrawal from the Program After Acceptance**: Any application received serves as the applicant's notice of intent to enroll in the Spanish Immersion Program and obligates the student to attend Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School.

Due to the specialized nature of this program an English proficiency assessment may be deemed necessary to determine eligibility of participation into the language immersion program. The program administrator(s) have the authority to determine if this is necessary.