



DLS 10
A Decade of Excellence

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL RECEIVES TWO DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC AWARDS FROM THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DENVER, COLORADO - DECEMBER 19, 2019 - The Colorado Department of Education recently announced that Denver Language School (DLS) has been selected to receive the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award and the John Irwin Award for academic excellence in 2019.

The Governor's award is given to schools that demonstrate exceptional student growth based on the school's performance framework (SPF) that is used by the state to evaluate schools. To earn a Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award, schools must exceed expectations on year over year academic growth, and "meet or exceed" expectations on the indicator related to academic growth gaps. DLS was one of 10 out of 207 Denver Public Schools selected and one of 93 statewide recipients out of 1,890 public schools in Colorado.

The John Irwin award is given to schools that demonstrate exceptional academic achievement over time. This award is given to the top 8% of Colorado Public Schools. These schools received an "Exceeds Expectations" rating on the Academic Achievement indicator of the SPF reflecting exceptional performance in Math, English Language Arts, and Science.

Kathy Benzel, Executive Director of DLS,

It is an incredible honor to be recognized by the Colorado Department of Education and the Governor's Office for our outstanding academic growth and achievement, especially as we celebrate our 10-year anniversary. These achievements reflect the power of the language immersion model, our commitment to whole child supports, differentiation in the classroom, high-quality instruction, and an organizational structure that best serves our growing school community. I am incredibly proud to be part of the DLS community and the language immersion effort in Colorado. I look forward to the next ten years as we continue to serve students and expand the prevailing concept of public education.

Please click [here](#) to view the full report on Denver Language School's SPF results from the Colorado Department of Education.

Since the school's inception in 2010, DLS has grown from a small K-2 with 225 enrolled students, to a K-8 with 874 students, and the #1 top choice school in the Denver Public School District.



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DLS ranks as a top ten middle school in the Denver Public School District. DLS is also the only middle school in DPS to offer an AP exam to its 8th grade students. In 2019, 80% of the DLS 8th grade class passed their Spanish and Mandarin AP exams with a score of 3 or higher.

Denver Language School is a DPS K-8 charter school located in the Mayfair Park and Five Points neighborhoods of Denver, Colorado. The school offers a full immersion model in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese to over 870 students. Founded in 2010, DLS is a top ten DPS middle school in Math and English in state and local test results.

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