I. PURPOSE

To recognize the positive benefits of a student’s first language, that bilingualism enhances a student’s ability to contribute powerfully to society, and to affirm the education of English Language Learners as a high priority, and ensure that an aligned K-12 dual language program is available to students.

II. BACKGROUND

Success for every student is based on the premise that quality education is a fundamental right of every child. Language should not be a barrier that impedes English Language Learners in their effort to secure equal educational opportunities in the Las Cruces Public Schools.

III. POSITION

A. Students who are acquiring English as a second language, including immigrant children and youth, will be provided rigorous and relevant instruction.

B. The district will ensure that the instructional program meets all academic standards, including those specified in the Common Core State Standards, in support of the state of New Mexico’s long-standing policy to further bilingual, multicultural education.

C. The Superintendent shall promulgate a regulation for the implementation of this policy.

IV. REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Board of Education, President

Date Approved

History: Formerly Policy 407 Bilingual Education; Revised 10.16.12

Legal Reference: 6.29.1.11.C NMAC; 6.32.2.7 through 6.32.2.16 NMAC; 22-23-1, NMSA 1978