

Local

# Local schools in good shape with bilingual education

**By GWEN HAM**  
Battalion Reporter

Most of Texas may be in general upheaval over U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice's ruling to extend bilingual education throughout primary and secondary schools, but Bryan-College Station schools don't have much to worry about.

Justice has ruled that Texas schools must offer bilingual education from kindergarten through fifth grade by next fall, and to all 12 grades by 1986.

"We're in very good shape as far as Justice's ruling," said Barbara Erwin, bilingual supervisor for the Bryan Independent School District. "BISD has had a bilingual education program for nine or 10 years in grades K-5. Students in grades 6-12 receive training and support in English as a Second Language (ESL).

"We have about 170 students in the bilingual program and 25 in ESL, a special course teaching English to students who don't speak English or Spanish.

"We hire certified bilingual teachers who have to take many hours over and above a regular elementary school teacher and speak both English and Spanish. We have six certified bilingual teachers and a bilingual aide."

While BISD seems to have bilingual education under control, the College Station Independent School District's program is less extensive. CSISD officials recognize that while they don't have to

worry about it now, the need for bilingual education is just around the corner.

"CSISD has never had enough foreign-speaking students to offer bilingual education," said Dr. Judy Huffty, director of curriculum and staff development for CSISD.

"Even though we have 69 to 75 students in grades K-12 that do not speak English, they may speak 20 different languages because College Station is a college town and many kids come in with their parents who are with the University. We just don't have enough of one language to require bilingual education. We only have a few Spanish-speaking kids and they're spread throughout the district."

But because of an increasing need within the district, this year CSISD hired two teachers for English as a Second Language, one for grades K-8 and one for grades 9-12, Huffty said.

"BISD has one bilingual class in each level, grades K-4," Erwin said. "All fifth graders go to Lamar's fifth grade campus where we offer another bilingual class."

One of the major points of Justice's order is the requirement that all subjects be taught in English and Spanish. The only exceptions are art, music, physical education and those subjects in which language proficiency is not essential.

"There are courses that the Texas Education Agency says we must teach in our bilingual program," Erwin said, "like Spanish development, English development, math, social studies, sciences and cultural heritage."

"Our goal is to move them (the students) out of the bilingual program and into the regular classroom. How long it takes depends on the child," Erwin said.

Screening reveals students who need bilingual education, Erwin said.

"We ask the parent of every child that comes into the district to sign a form identifying the home language. If anything but English is spoken we give the child a LAS (Language Assessment Scale) test. Scores determine eligibility for the bilingual program. Testing goes on all year," she said.

Although bilingual education can mean learning in any language, BISD offers only a Spanish program. There aren't enough children speaking any other language to offer anything else.

"If we have a child who comes to us speaking another language — we had 14 different languages spoken last year — we offer them the ESL program," Erwin said.

CSISD bilingual education in ESL classes works in a similar manner. "As soon as the students get to the point where they feel like they can go back to the classroom, they move back," Huffty said. "While in the special classes, the students are taught English and structural language. We just get them ready to learn other subjects like math and social studies."

CSISD also offers Spanish courses in grades K-12. "In elementary," Huffty said, "it's more of a Spanish enrichment course where they learn to count, say colors and learn a little conversation. The classes, held every other day, are an introduction into another culture."

"As we continue to grow, I'm sure we will have a need for bilingual education. Other school districts may be in bad trouble when the bilingual controversy is settled, but because of our ground work and philosophical approach, I think we will be in better shape than most."

To absorb the extra costs of special texts and programs, the state provides schools with \$25 per bilingual student and all reading materials necessary for the program.

CSISD, however, generates funds from their program from within their district without any state aid, Huffty said.

When CSISD is required to implement a more extensive bilingual education program, state funds may no longer be available.

"With (President) Reagan's

position on bilingual education, I don't really think that the state is going to get that kind of funding any more," Huffty said. "We have teachers with Spanish backgrounds and several that speak Spanish. We could use them if we have to drop frills, like Spanish for everybody, and move them into a bilingual program. Overall, I think we're in pretty good shape for the future."

## Council renames Puryear and part of Kyle Avenue

**By BELINDA McCOY**  
Battalion Staff

Citizens of Kyle Avenue presented a petition to the College Station City Council Thursday night asking that the council reconsider a decision it made to rename their street.

The citizens were upset from a recent resolution that the council passed renaming a recently completed section of Kyle Avenue which extended from Texas Avenue to Dominick Drive and Highway 30. The new name was to be Jersey Street East.

After a lengthy discussion between the council members and citizens, the council voted to allow the original sections of the street which were named Kyle Avenue to remain Kyle Avenue.

As of Jan. 1, 1983, Kyle Avenue South will become the name of the new section curving from the original Kyle Avenue around to intersect with Dominick Drive.

The present Puryear Drive, which runs between Dominick Drive and Highway 30, will also become Kyle Avenue South.

The delayed time element was added to allow businesses and apartments on Puryear Drive time to deplete their supplies of stationery, saving the owners the cost of replacing their present supplies.

The council also voted to rezone a 13-acre tract of land on the south side of Southwest Parkway East between Texas Avenue and the East Bypass from a single family district to a townhouse district.

The rezoning request also asked that an adjoining 24-acre tract of land be changed from a single family district to an apartment district. Because of resident opposition during a public hearing, the council decided to send the proposal back to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the city staff so that future development plans of the land can be considered further.

In other action, the council approved an ordinance raising the homestead tax exemption, an ad valorem tax, from \$15,000 to \$18,750 for citizens over 65 years old. The ordinance is the result of a new state law which raised the

tax accession rate of resident homesteads from 80 percent to 100 percent, City Secretary Glenn Schroeder said.

After closed session, the council voted to appoint Frederick W. Hensel to the Board of Equalization. Hensel is manager of the University Center at Texas A&M University.

Mayor Gary Halter announced that a special council meeting will be held next Thursday night at 7 p.m. for the purpose of appointing members of the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Parks and Recreation Board and other city boards and commissions.

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