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HISTORY AND FUTURE OF SPANISH IMMERSION IN FORT WAYNE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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The History of the Spanish Immersion program at Lindley Elementary School (in the Fort Wayne Community School system) parallels that of language immersion schools in systems elsewhere over the last 15-20 years. The Lindley program was born of the settlement between the school system and Parents for Quality Education through Integration.

While the settlement has survived unchallenged for over a decade, and has served as a model for magnet programs in other communities, it did not address the specific needs of Hispanic students and families. As the Hispanic population grows, the unique needs of that community will most certainly need to be directly addressed.

The history and future of single and dual immersion language programs are compared, and the unique challenges facing the local Spanish Immersion program is discussed in historical and contemporary social and political contexts. Finally, challenges for the future are identified.