

# Bilingual teachers to train at SMU

Grants allow program  
to certify instructors,  
build ranks for DISD

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DISD's quest for bilingual teachers is soon to get a boost, courtesy of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Southern Methodist University will use a \$1.5 million grant provided in the new federal education law to train 150 certified bilingual elementary teachers for the Dallas district over the next five years.

SMU officials said DISD also will share in another \$1.5 million grant that gives scholarships to teachers who receive bilingual certification with a focus on talented and gifted kids. Other districts that will share the grant include Garland, Carrollton-Farmers Branch,

Grand Prairie, Irving, Plano and Richardson.

Bill Pulte, director of SMU's teacher certification programs in bilingual education, estimates that Texas is short about 8,000 bilingual teachers. The Dallas area has the worst shortage, he said, with a need of about 1,800 bilingual teachers.

Both grants received by SMU are among 130 awarded nationally this year by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition, SMU officials said.

The grant specifically targeting DISD will put 30 teachers at a time through a 10-month course for bilingual certification.

The program also will include an intensive language component for teachers not fluent in Spanish.

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