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Bilingual Education in Bloomington-Normal: The Here & Now and After

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Oral Presentation O10.1

**BILINGUAL EDUCATION IN BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL:
THE HERE & NOW AND AFTER**

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This study examines the objectives of the existing bilingual education programs available for elementary students in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. After exploring the options for young Spanish-speakers in this area, I plan to investigate the availability of resources for bilingual and English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers as well as the overall success of these programs. The latter will be determined by ISAT test scores of English language learners (ELLS) from the last three years after continuing on to junior high school. The participants of this study are bilingual educators who are members of the Bloomington-Normal Bilingual & ESL Group Listserv whose responses will be obtained through online surveys. One interview with a bilingual education teacher from Bloomington will also be used. The students' test results will be acquired through the Illinois Interactive Report Cards of the Bloomington-Normal junior high schools that illustrate the achievement in various subject areas and compare test results by groups based on ethnicity, income, and other factors. In interpreting this information, I hope to answer these questions: Are the resources available to bilingual education programs sufficient? What happens when the ELLs enter into the junior high schools without Spanish instruction? Are the objectives of bilingual education achieved? With a growing population of Hispanics nationally, it is pertinent to examine both the strong and weak points of these programs in order to reflect on how the education system will accommodate ELLs in the imminent future.