



Barrington Chinese Immersion Council &lt;bcic220@gmail.com&gt;

## CI Kindergarten Sections BCIC Follow Up

**Craig Winkelman** <CWinkelman@barrington220.org>

Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 8:00 AM

To: Barrington Chinese Immersion Council <bcic220@gmail.com>

Cc: Becky Wiegel <rwiegel@barrington220.org>, Steve Wang <stwang@barrington220.org>, Diana Clopton <dclopton@barrington220.org>, Barry Altshuler <baltshuler@barrington220.org>, Sandra Bradford <sbradford@barrington220.org>, Leah CollisterLazzari <lcollisterlazzari@barrington220.org>, Erin Chan Ding <echanding@barrington220.org>, "hsrivastava@barrington220.org" <hsrivastava@barrington220.org>, email@bcic220.org, Melissa Byrne <MByrne@barrington220.org>, ziminmineo@bcic220.org, leeannchang@bcic220.org, deeptaramesh@bcic220.org, Becca Patchak <beccapatchak@bcic220.org>, Yiming Wang <yimingwang@bcic220.org>, michellechase@bcic220.org, zaolizhang@bcic220.org, erinlaes@bcic220.org, katexu@bcic220.org

Dear BCIC,

Thank you so much for your email and for sharing your thoughtful questions with us. Please find our responses noted in **blue font** below.

We also want to take a moment to sincerely reassure the council that both the Board and the administration remain deeply committed to the Chinese Immersion program. As we work through fluctuations in student interest and enrollment, our dedication to this important and valued program remains steadfast.

We are incredibly proud of what we've built together in District 220 and are fully committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure the program continues to thrive—not only today but for many years to come.

Kind regards,  
Craig

QUESTIONS:

- Could you please clarify **who is responsible for making the final decision** regarding the number of kindergarten sections in the CI program? For example, the principal of the school, the superintendent, the BOE, Becky Weigel, etc.

**The Executive Council, comprised of the Superintendent and the administrative team, closely monitors student enrollment utilizing the class size guidelines established by the Board of Education. The administration determines the number of sections and any other adjustments or supports to be made to the program, like adding an instructional aide or other measures.**

- If **enrollment increases to 27 students**, would the district maintain two CI kindergarten sections?

**Once we have registered a total of 26 students on our Kindergarten Chinese Immersion roster, we will begin a waitlist starting with the 27th student. We will monitor the waitlist throughout the summer months and immediately open an additional section if we reach a threshold of at least half a section of students interested (12). This is consistent with the process we utilize for opening additional kindergarten sections across the district.**

- Is the district planning to have both a Chinese and an English teacher assigned at each grade level for CI, K–5? We see the following quote from Dr. Winkelman in an email response to parents. “Based on current interest, we’ve planned for one kindergarten section next year, in line with our class size guidelines. However, enrollment may shift as

families move in or out of the district, and we will adjust the number of sections as needed." Specifically, is the district **actively hiring for the second grade CI English teacher** outside of our current CI teachers for fall?

Based on current enrollment for the 25-26 school year, we would have a single teacher who would teach both languages. We are working on a plan for future years where students would spend half of their day with a dedicated English-speaking teacher and half of their day with a dedicated Mandarin-speaking teacher. At this time, the district is not actively hiring for the 2nd-grade CI English teacher. We have reassigned a teacher to that position.

- How is the district currently **advertising and promoting the CI program**? Please include any steps being taken to inform families about available space. BCIC's recruiting efforts have expanded, and we are eager to support the district's efforts.

The district is currently advertising and promoting the Chinese Immersion program in the following ways:

- Our Teaching and Learning [website page](#) has information regarding our language programs as well as a Chinese Immersion [website page](#). Additionally, our kindergarten [website page](#) includes language programming information.
- During K round up in early February, all elementary principals include a slide in their individual presentations letting families know about the program. They also include the date of the round up presentation specific to CI.
- Throughout the month of February the ELC principal shares via newsletters what the choices/options for kindergarten include.
- Our communications director shares out via various modes of social media what our 220 unique programming options entail, highlighting specific dates/times that families are invited to learn more about our programs. This happens throughout January and February.
- We use the marquee at Barrington High School to advertise dates/times of informational meetings for all programming.
- Our district registrar explains various options to families who register outside of the typical window. Specifically, letting families with K-1 students know what our choice programs include.
- We just created an additional email communication for all incoming kindergarten families that highlights the Chinese Immersion program and our other district programs.
- We respectfully request a **follow-up meeting with Dr. Winkelman, Becky Wiegel, and any interested BOE members** to discuss these questions directly, clarify planning timelines, and identify opportunities for collaboration to support enrollment and staffing for the CI program.

Becky Wiegel will continue to have regular meetings with the BCIC, as she has done in the past. While meetings typically do not occur during the summer months, Becky will remain in communication with BCIC during June, July, and August this summer.

**Dr. Craig Winkelman**  
***Superintendent of Schools***  
**Barrington CUSD 220**  
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