



Franklin High School
International Baccalaureate Program
4600 E. Fremont St
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(209) 933-7435 Fax (209) 464-4708



Franklin High School IB Program **Language Policy**

Language Profile:

Franklin High School serves a very diverse population of students. Our students speak many languages as their primary language or mother tongue. However, the official language of instruction at Franklin is English. Although the majority of our students at Franklin are Latino and speak Spanish at home, their ability ranges from those who speak, read, and write both English and Spanish to those who only speak English. The second most spoken mother tongue (non-English) at Franklin is Lao. There are a number of other languages that are represented within our student population such as Khmer, Tagalog, Punjabi, Urdu, and Arabic but the number of students who speak these other languages is quite small. Lastly, there is a student population of African American, Caucasian and other students whose primary language is English.

Within the context of the community at large in our immediate surrounding area, there is a large percentage of the population who speaks Spanish. Predominantly, the Spanish speaking community is of Mexican descent although there are other people from Central America who are represented as well. Additionally, there is a significant Hmong community in close proximity to us. Other ethnicities that are represented within our immediate community are African Americans and Caucasians and others.

Language Philosophy:

Franklin has adopted the philosophy that every language is precious and relevant to the world we live in. We further adopt the belief that through language we can learn from one another's cultures in order to enrich our own. By learning to communicate through more than one language, we offer others open-mindedness, acceptance and the idea that we respect everyone as part of the global society we are all a part of. We also believe that learning more than one language is now, more than ever, a necessity in order to coexist in a fast changing world. Lastly, we strongly believe that learning other languages than our mother tongue also promotes higher order thinking and critical skills.

Language Policy:

The language of instruction at Franklin is English. To help support the language of instruction, all students are required to take an English class each academic year. Students are also guided through the various genres of literature and various types of writing styles. Oral communication in English, as well as listening skills, are emphasized through individual student presentations. We consider language as something taught across the board, by all teachers. It is transdisciplinary in nature and touches upon all aspects of expressions and



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communication. Language is a component of our assessments and is built into our practices. Various forms of citation and biographical conventions are taught at all the grade levels. These conventions include APA, MLA and Chicago.

All Franklin students are offered a choice of a world language as one of many elective classes. Their choices consist of French or Spanish. Within the general student population, studying a world language is not a requirement. Their elective credits can be satisfied through some other form of visual or performing art. However, students who wish to attend a four year college must take at least two years of the same language, and a third year is recommended.

Within the FHS IB program, all students are required to study a second language. We currently offer Spanish and French to our students. In the Diploma Program we offer these languages at both Higher Level and Standard Level.

Support for the Mother Tongue:

It is our goal to help EL students integrate into our classroom settings by learning English quickly. However, it is crucial that children continue to deepen their relationship with their mother tongue for the development of higher order thinking skills and for the continued connection to their cultural identity. To that end, there are several members of the Franklin staff who help support our student's mother tongue by acting as interpreters for the counselors, teachers and parents. Spanish and Hmong are the mother tongues that are supported most often. The Migrant Education Program also helps support the mother tongue of Spanish speaking families by providing interpretive services and community outreach programs (tutoring for students, math institute, parent classes, health referral services, etc). Additional access to other language support is available through interpreters provided by SUSD Office of Secondary Education and library and online resources. Franklin further supports our students' mother tongue through our Coffee Hour meetings and our English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) meetings, where parental concerns are addressed in the mother tongue of the parents. In the classroom, our teachers also use specially designed academic instruction in English (SDAIE) strategies to deliver instruction to help support our students' mother tongue.

Plan for Improving Language Policy:

We realize that we must continue to revisit our language policy and make changes as we grow. Further meetings in the near future will be held to expand, revise and complete our language policy to a format that is specific to the MYP and DP program needs.

Additional measures to be taken include a student survey given to all incoming students as part of the application process to provide information regarding the following:

1. Which language students speak the most comfortably



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2. Which languages students speak at home
3. Which language(s) students read and understand
4. Which language(s) students write with competence
5. Which language(s) students have further interest in learning

The outcome of these surveys will help us to determine how Franklin can better support the needs of all of our students and will be central to our review process. In the FHS IB program, we also hope to use the data to make instruction more meaningful by being more cognizant of our students' diverse backgrounds.

In addition to the student survey, incoming students who choose Spanish as their world language, will be given a placement exam. This will be used to appropriately place students in the correct course. If a student is found to be fluent in speaking, reading, and writing, they will be advised to choose French as their world language.