

Wilson High School and El Sereno Middle School Language Philosophy and Policy

Philosophy

Today's students need to develop linguistic and cultural literacy and functional proficiency in more than one World Language. We believe in the importance of nurturing and validating students' cultural capital and mother tongue. Multilingualism facilitates cross-cultural understanding by providing students with the global perspective necessary to be open-minded, balanced, thinkers, that respect and value cultures other than their own.

With this end in mind our school community will:

- Prepare all students to be proficient in their mother tongue and the target language or additional languages.
- Encourage students to acquire a global perspective through multilingualism.
- Foster a learning environment where all languages and cultures are valued.
- Use instructional materials to integrate multicultural perspectives.
- Provide access to resources in multiple languages.
- Revisit this policy annually.

Profile

Historically, Mandarin and Spanish have been the most widely represented languages other than English in the El Sereno Community. We aim to build on that rich cultural legacy, by offering students the chance to develop those languages and to ultimately aspire to bilingualism and biliteracy in Spanish and Mandarin. Students today at El Sereno Middle School/Wilson High School speak many different languages. While the largest number of students and families speak Spanish, there are also students who speak Akateko, Cantonese, Khmer/Cambodian, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Toishanese, Vietnamese, and Yoruba among others as well as sign ASL. Because of the array of languages, there are:

1. Mother tongue English students with limited Language B (World Language Class/Language other than English).
2. Students with advanced skills in both English and another mother tongue.
3. Bilingual/Multilingual students whose parents do not speak English.
4. Students with limited English language skills.
5. Students whose primary language is African American Vernacular English, Hawaiian English, Mexican American English, Native American English, etc.

Language A Instruction

Instruction at Wilson High School is in English and at El Sereno Middle School instruction is in English or Spanish/Mandarin for those enrolled in the Dual Language Program. Wilson High School and El Sereno Middle School provide a comprehensive, rigorous, engaging curriculum aligned with the IB's Middle Years Programme requirements for Language and Literature and Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Teachers use best practices such as AVID's WICOR (Writing Inquiry Collaboration Organization Reading) and SDAIE (Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English) to address the needs of our diverse student population.

Identification of Language B Students

In order to provide for the successful development of language skills for our students, regardless of their prior language experiences, El Sereno Middle School and Wilson High School MYP students undertake Language B studies in Spanish or Mandarin. During years 1 - 2 students are enrolled in Intro to Spanish for one semester. In year 3 students are enrolled in Spanish 1 for a full year. When transitioning from El Sereno Middle School to Wilson High School students are given a diagnostic placement test to ensure proper programming of course level. At Wilson High School, students can continue in their studies in Spanish for at least 2 years, up to AP Spanish Language or Literature, or they can enroll in Mandarin.

Students with advanced skills in Spanish are offered "Spanish for Spanish Speakers" to support their mother

tongue. Bilingual Spanish or Mandarin speaking students pursue an advanced course of study and are evaluated using the advanced MYP Language Acquisition criteria. The Language Acquisition curriculum is framed by the fundamental MYP concepts and the national standards.

Dual Language Program at El Sereno Middle School

The Dual Language Program (also known as the two-way immersion program) allows English learners and English Proficient students to receive instruction in English and Spanish or Mandarin to develop academic proficiency in both languages. Fifty percent of instruction is conducted in each language, with at least 2 content classes such as Math or History being taught in a language other than English. Currently 19 MYP year 1 students in Spanish and 9 in Mandarin are participating, who hailed from Farmdale Elementary School's Dual Language Programs.

The goals of the program are to develop communicative and academic second language proficiency, primary language proficiency, academic achievement in all subject areas, and instill an appreciation for cultural diversity.

High School State Seal of Biliteracy (Click here for more information)

The California State Seal of Biliteracy Criteria established in legislation certifies attainment of a high level of proficiency in two or more languages. The English criteria includes:

- Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 2.0 or above.
- Passing the California Standards test in English language arts administered in grade 11 at the proficient level or above.
- For English learners not reclassified, attain the overall early advanced level on the English language development test

The criteria for proficiency in a language other than English is one of the following:

- Passing a [World Language Advanced Placement](#) examination with a score of 3 or higher
- Passing an [International Baccalaureate](#) examination with a score of 4 or higher
- Successful completion of a four-year high school course of study in a world language and attaining an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above
- Passing a school district language exam that, at a minimum, assesses speaking, reading and writing passing at a proficient level or higher

At El Sereno Middle School students may earn the Pathway to Biliteracy Award if they have shown a commitment to becoming biliterate and have demonstrated some proficiency in English and another language, based on local criteria.

English Language Development (ELD) Program

At Wilson High School and El Sereno Middle School students who are Emerging Bilinguals are assessed and placed in the appropriate ELD course. The ELD courses are required by the district to utilize particular curricular frameworks depending on the length of time students have been enrolled in school in the United States. Students who have been enrolled in the program for more than 5 years without meeting certain benchmarks to reclassify are identified as Long Term English Learners and continue to receive additional support through ELD 9, 10, 11 or 12.

Students in the ELD program are assessed annually with the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) to evaluate yearly adequate progress in reading, writing, listening, and speaking of the English language. Additionally students take the Reading Growth Measure (RGM) Test to measure students' lexile level growth. These tests are the basis for reclassification from the ELD designation when a student earns a "C" or above in their designated ELD class or their Language and Literature class.