



International Baccalaureate Language Policy

Linden High School

Purpose of the Language Policy

The Language Policy is a working document developed collaboratively by a group of administrators, teachers, parents and students from Linden Public Schools. This document provides an overview of Linden Public Schools' beliefs and practices that support language learning. The language policy outlines the linguistic and academic goals of our schools, as well as the established structures that will help students reach those goals so they can fulfill the mission and vision of Linden Public Schools.

Vision Statement

The Linden Public School District is committed to developing respect for diversity, excellence in education, and a commitment to service, in order to promote global citizenship and ensure personal success for all students.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Linden Public School District is to promote distinction through the infinite resource that is Linden's diversity, combined with our profound commitment to instructional excellence, so that each and every student achieves their maximum potential in an engaging, inspiring, and challenging learning environment.

Philosophy of Language Teaching and Learning

- *Language is the foundation for communication and learning*
- *All teachers, regardless of content area, are language teachers*
- *One may learn about language through the study of grammar, but one acquires language proficiency through comprehensible input.*
- *Language acquisition is a life-long process, and is a central component of intellectual and personal growth.*
- *To be truly bilingual, one must also be bicultural, as language and culture are indivisibly intertwined.*

Linden High School is part of the (LPS) Linden Public Schools district. LPS understands that language is part of everything that teachers and learners do in the classroom. It is the vehicle for all learning, across all content areas. It is an essential tool for making meaning in the world. As such, all teachers are language teachers, as language transcends the borders between curriculum areas.

We believe that language learning best occurs through authentic communication that is comprehensible and compelling. Rather than exclusively focusing on the study of discrete rules and

vocabulary lists, we believe students develop proficiency when they are immersed in meaningful, authentic, communicative and comprehensible language. We advocate the learning of language through inquiry, allowing students to make connections with context, to explore and to investigate. We understand language and culture to be inextricably intertwined, therefore the acquisition of additional languages allows students to further reflect upon and explore cultural perspectives. At Linden High School we are committed to providing an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all students. As an IB World School, we are committed to the following practices:

- The school places importance on language learning, including mother tongue, host country language and other languages. (IB Standard A, Practice 7).
- Teaching and learning addresses the diversity of student language needs, including those for students learning a language(s) other than their mother tongue. (IB Standard C3, Practice 7).
- Teaching and learning demonstrates that all teachers are responsible for language development of students. (IB Standard C3, Practice 8).
- Assessment at the school aligns with the requirements of the program(s). (IB Standard C4, Practice 1).
- Collaborative planning and reflection recognize that all teachers are responsible for language development of students (IB Standard C1, Practice 8).
- The school utilizes the resources and expertise of the community to enhance learning within the programs (IB Standard B2, Practice 11).

Language Profile

Linden High School is situated in Linden, NJ, a linguistically diverse community. Over 30 languages are spoken in our district, with significant numbers of our students listing Spanish, Haitian-Creole, and Polish as their home languages.

As of October 16, 2017, there were 456 English Language Learners (ELL) students in grades Pre-K through 12th in the Linden Public School District, who speak 29 different languages other than English. At the secondary level, there are 155 Limited English Proficient students. In the elementary schools, grades Pre-K through 5th there are 301 ELL students.

The largest bilingual language groups are Spanish, Haitian Creole and Polish.

Our ESL/Bilingual students speak the following languages:

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| Albanian | 1 | Hindi | 2 | Russian | 5 |
| Arabic | 9 | Igbo | 2 | Slovak | 3 |
| Chinese | 5 | Italian | 1 | Spanish | 242 |
| Creoles & Pidgins, English Based | 1 | Korean | 1 | Tagalog | 1 |
| Czech | 1 | Lithuanian | 2 | Turkish | 1 |
| Filipino | 2 | Mandingo | 1 | Ukrainian | 9 |
| French | 2 | Mossi | 3 | Urdu | 8 |
| Greek | 1 | Panjabi | 3 | Vietnamese | 3 |

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|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Gujarati | 1 | Polish | 60 | Yoruba | 1 |
| Haitian Creole | 70 | Portuguese | 15 | | |

Language Instruction at Linden High School

Supporting English Language Learners

Linden Public Schools has been designated by the New Jersey Department of Education as having a model program for the support of ELLs (English Language Learners). Linden High School currently serves approximately 90 ELLs who are given two periods of English instruction from certified ESL teachers. Additionally, the district's content area teachers are supported with frequent professional development activities and trainings that allow them to better understand and meet the needs of our ELLs. For example, content area teachers have received extensive training in Sheltered Instruction teaching strategies, and have used this training to make math, science and social studies content comprehensible to all students.

Mother Tongue Support

Linden Public Schools believes that development of the students' first language literacy forms the foundation upon which all further literacy is built upon and is integral to the student's academic success. Students' home languages are both highly valued and visible in our school community.

The district offers three part time bilingual programs, serving the families whose home languages are among our most widely spoken in our district: Spanish, Haitian Creole and Spanish. Students within these programs receive one period of academic and language development support in their home language in addition to their ESL classes.

The district has established a Parents' Bilingual Advisory Program which holds periodic meetings where parents have the opportunity to give their feedback and suggestions related to our program's continuing evolution. Members of the Parent's Bilingual Advisory committee also contribute to the development of the district's language policy.

All Bilingual/ESL teachers are supported with professional development opportunities which help them use biliteracy strategies in order to leverage the students' emerging literacy in both languages to build overall literacy and academic success. All district teachers receive training which helps them to understand the vital role of the home language in the development of overall literacy.

Support for the mother tongue continues even after the student has exited the ESL program. Beginning at the middle school level, Linden Public Schools offers a variety of classes designed to help Heritage Spanish learners maintain and further develop their L1 literacy skills. The goal of these efforts is to help students graduate with the ability to demonstrate high levels of proficiency in more than one language. Each year Linden High School language learners are encouraged to complete proficiency testing that will permit them to earn the NJ Seal of Biliteracy – a state designation that confirms to prospective employers and universities, that the student has acquired a high degree of

proficiency in both English and another World Language. Linden Public schools was among several districts piloting the Seal of Biliteracy, and has helped over 150 students earn the Seal in a wide variety of languages.

Teaching World Languages and Cultures

The Linden Public Schools district believes that all students should learn at least one world language in addition to English. Language learning plays a central role in the curriculum and within the education of each student. In the 21st Century knowing another language is not only beneficial, but necessary for success in life.

All students in the Linden Public School’s district have the opportunity to study a language other than English beginning in kindergarten and continuing through every grade until graduation.

We acknowledge the wide body of research that supports the role of language learning in improving student’s cognitive function, demonstrated through:

- Enhanced problem-solving skills
- Improved verbal and spatial abilities
- Improved memory (long & short term)
- Enhanced creative thinking capacity
- Improved attitudes toward target language and culture
- Higher standardized test scores
- Higher reading achievement
- Expanded vocabulary in native language
- Higher academic performance at the college level

In addition to these cognitive benefits, we acknowledge the vital role that language learning plays in preparing our students to become global citizens. Technology and globalization have created a world of interconnectedness never before seen in history. It is imperative that we support students in developing the knowledge, skills, and ethical disposition that will permit them to act as global citizens and contribute to creating a future that enhances human well-being.

Elementary Language offerings

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Schools 2, 5 & 6 | Spanish |
| Schools 4 & 9 | Italian |
| School 8 & 10 | Mandarin Chinese |

Middle School Language Offerings

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| McManus Middle School | Chinese |
| Soehl Middle School | (Mandarin) |
| | French |
| | Italian |
| | Spanish |

Linden High School Language Offerings

French: Levels I-V, IB SL 11, IB SL 12
German: Levels I-V, IB SL 11, IB SL 12
Italian: Levels I-V, IB SL 11, IB SL 12
Mandarin Chinese: Levels I-V, IB SL 11, IB SL 12
Russian: Levels I, II, & III
Spanish: Levels I-V. IB SL 11, IB SL 12
Spanish Heritage: Levels I-III, Latin & Caribbean Studies

English as a Second Language: Levels I-VI
Sheltered Instruction Math, Social Studies and Science
Literacy Workshop for English Language Learners

Overview of Teaching of Language

We believe that highly effective language instruction occurs when students:

- are active participants in a school culture that values students' L1 and see it as the foundation for all further literacy development
- receive instruction in a classroom environment that is attentive to the affective factors that play a crucial role in language acquisition. The language classroom is an environment where teachers strive to remove stress from language learning, and where students feel secure and confident in their ability to use comprehend and use their emerging language skills.
- receive instruction from teachers who strive to be comprehensible while teaching in the target language and constantly assess students' understanding
- are given the opportunity to become active learners through inquiry and authentic real-life applications.
- introduced to a variety of strategies that will enable them to effectively direct their own language learning outside of class
- are given constructive and specific feedback

Extra-Curricular Language and Culture Opportunities

Linden Public Schools acknowledges that a high degree of language learning takes place in a social context. Therefore, the district supports a wide variety of extra-curricular activities designed to enhance language learning. Such activities include: International Club, National Honor Societies for each of our World Languages, Model UN, and Learn & Serve. The district also supports exchange programs where our students travel abroad as well as host guest from sister schools in Spain, Italy, France and China.

To see more on the IB Language Policy, please refer to the following website:

<https://www.ibo.org/language-policy/>