

## SDUSD – LANGUAGE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES K-12

District Policy: F- 2599

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*“All San Diego students will graduate with the skills, motivation, curiosity, and resilience to succeed in their choice of college and career in order to lead and participate in the society of tomorrow.”*

SDUSD Mission Statement, 2009

A vision of student success recognizes that in addition to being academically prepared and fully proficient in English, all students benefit from being proficient in another language. Multilingualism enhances cognitive development, divergent and critical thinking, problem solving, as well as promotes communication and understanding in an increasingly global society. Opportunities to develop competencies in multiple languages enhance and contribute to the ultimate achievement of all students.

The unique geographical location of San Diego indicates a need for providing more opportunities to learn languages that hold importance for this region, as well as expanding opportunities for learning those less commonly taught, critical languages with economic and strategic significance.

The District is committed to providing language learning opportunities and options that:

- Build on student strengths, recognizing home language and culture are valued resources that serve as key tools in achieving academic success and, academic knowledge transfers across languages providing access to learning the core curriculum;
- Include rigorous, research-based academic English language development instruction for all students;
- Enable students to develop proficiency in the languages of instruction;
- Lead to multicultural understanding by expanding students’ global perspectives and promoting appreciation of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds;
- Are available to all students through a variety of articulated K–12 pathways. These research based-program options include:
  - Bilingual/Biliteracy programs
  - Language Immersion/Dual Language Immersion programs
  - World language programs and courses
  - Language Enrichment programs at the Elementary level, such as:
    - IB, Primary Years (e.g. Spanish at Birney Elementary)
    - Foreign Language in the Elementary School (e.g. Mandarin Chinese at Barnard Elementary)
    - Extended Day Programs (e.g. Arabic language at Carver)

In addition, the District is committed to:

- Staffing all language programs with highly-qualified certificated personnel
- Providing access to technology as a tool for teaching and learning
- Assessments that appropriately measure student progress toward program goals

The District will align and dedicate resources to support professional development that ensures that all teachers are supported in researching, developing, and sharing rigorous, engaging, and culturally relevant curriculum, and to enhance effective instructional methods for the successful implementation of all language programs.

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