

Riverview High School IB Language Policy

Philosophy

An important goal of Riverview High School's IB Program is to prepare students to recognize themselves as active, responsible members of a globally interdependent world. **Language is central to learning, communication, and cultural identity**, and it is through language that we achieve international-mindedness.

At Riverview, we aim to:

- Develop strong literacy and communication skills in English (the language of instruction).
 - Ensure all students study at least one additional world language.
 - Support students in maintaining and valuing their mother tongue and cultural identity.
 - Provide language support for students who are developing English proficiency.
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Languages of Instruction

- **English** is the primary language of instruction at Riverview High School, used in all IB courses except for world language classes.
 - **Spanish** and **German** are offered as Language Acquisition options. Most Riverview IB students complete at least three credits in Language Acquisition, with many completing four.
 - Students may also pursue **Ab Initio** language options in Grade 11 (two-year SL courses for beginners in an additional world language).
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Language Acquisition and Enrichment

- **World Languages:** IB students are required to complete a minimum of three credits in Language Acquisition; the majority complete four.
- **Ab Initio Option:** Increasing numbers of IB juniors take advantage of the Ab Initio track to begin a new language.

- **Advanced Options:** Students may also pursue AP-level courses in Spanish, and many courses across the curriculum (e.g., Theatre, Film, History, Psychology) integrate language, culture, and global perspectives.
 - **Enrichment Opportunities:** Clubs such as Spanish Honor Society, German Honor Society, Drama, Speech and Debate, Journalism (Rampage), and Literary Arts (Literari) provide opportunities to enhance communication skills in authentic contexts. CAS experiences—such as tutoring elementary students in Spanish—further reinforce applied language learning.
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English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Riverview is committed to **equity and access** for students who are learning English.

- **ESOL courses** are available for students whose proficiency requires targeted support.
 - A **case management system** within the Excellence and Equity program ensures individualized monitoring and intervention.
 - Tutorial services are available across subject areas.
 - Our outreach actively recruits and supports ESOL-designated students, ensuring they are not excluded from IB opportunities due to language barriers.
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Language Across the Curriculum

Language development is the responsibility of **all teachers in all subjects**. IB emphasizes that each subject has its own disciplinary language (e.g., the symbolic language of mathematics, the lab report structures of science, the analytical vocabulary of literature). At Riverview, we recognize and explicitly teach the language demands of each discipline.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Students** commit to developing strong language skills in both English and an additional world language, and to valuing language diversity.
- **Teachers** integrate disciplinary literacy strategies into their courses and model academic language.

- **The Language Policy Committee** (teachers from Group 1 and Group 2) reviews and updates the policy regularly, ensuring alignment with IB expectations.
 - **Parents** support students' language development at home by encouraging reading, communication, and appreciation of cultural heritage.
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IB Language Definitions (Riverview Context)

- **Language of Instruction:** English, used in all courses except world language classes.
 - **Mother Tongue:** The language most strongly connected to a student's cultural identity, often spoken at home. Riverview encourages students to maintain and value their mother tongue.
 - **First Language:** The language in which the student is most proficient (may or may not be the same as their mother tongue).
 - **Additional Language:** A language studied beyond the student's first language. For Riverview, these include Spanish, German, and Ab Initio options.
 - **English as an Additional Language (EAL/ESOL):** Instruction and support to assist non-native English speakers in achieving academic success in an English-speaking environment.
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Review and Development

This Language Policy is a **living document**, reviewed regularly by the Language Policy Committee, IB Coordinators, and faculty. It is aligned with IB's expectation that schools create, review, and implement policies that support **access** for all learners.