

West High School International Baccalaureate Language Policy

Language Philosophy

The Mission of West High School is to provide for the growth of the individual student's knowledge, wisdom, character, and confidence so as to equip each student for a successful future as a literate, competent, contributing citizen with a strong sense of self-worth and respect for the dignity of others.

West High School is a diverse school of 2500 students, with English Language Learners speaking over 50 different languages. It is our philosophy to ensure that the value of the learner diversity is not lost, by providing coursework in English for all students, as well as offering a variety of opportunities for study of other languages. We strive to provide equal access to the curriculum at West High School for all learners in an appropriate way. We recognize that the teaching and learning environment is dependent up on high standards of conditions of practice in and out of the classroom.

Language development for all students is a school value and priority. At West High School, we believe that language is the gateway for exploring and sustaining cultural identity and intercultural understanding. In addition it is the mechanism used to promote the growth of the individual student's knowledge, wisdom, character, and confidence, as stated in our mission.

We recognize that systems and practices must be in place to advocate for all students to access language development. West High School believes that language is central to learning and literacy, and thus is closely related to the success of all students at the school as they work with curriculum. All teachers, regardless of their curricular area, are responsible for providing students with the vocabulary and language skills to be successful in their individual content area as well as communication across fields of study.

Language Profile

Language Profile for Language A:

The mother tongue language (Language A) at West High School is English. West High School serves students in grades 7-12. When discussing the whole school, all grades are considered. Grades 7-8 are not considered part of the high school and are not held to the requirements of high school graduation. When discussing the high school only grades 9-12 are considered.

1. English is promoted as the language of instruction at West High School. Students are required to take a full year course in Language Arts instruction each year. English is the only course that demands four years of instruction for graduation from the high school. West High School offers 19 different English courses for students to choose from 7-12 grades at varying degrees of rigor and difficulty. There are multiple options for Language Arts coursework including the following:
 - a. Language Arts 9, 10, 11, 12
 - b. Language Arts Honors 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
 - c. Concurrent English (dual-credit through Salt Lake Community College)
 - d. Advanced Placement English Language, English Literature and Composition
 - e. IB Language A: English Literature SL, HL
 - f. English Electives, including: Creative Writing, Journalism, Debate, Reading
 - g. English Language Development courses for English Language Learners

2. The development and maintenance of English for all learners is supported by regular assessment of student learning. Students complete a variety of school, district, and state mandated exams, as well as national and international exams, to demonstrate proficiency in English. These assessments are both formative and summative as described in the West High School IB Assessment Policy. Student results are reviewed and utilized for proper Language Arts placement annually for students, and to inform future instruction for teachers. Language assessments include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Essays
 - b. Literature content exams
 - c. Presentations
 - d. UALPA for English Language Learners, given twice annually
 - e. Direct Writing Assessment for grades 8 and 11
 - f. English Language Criterion Referenced Tests for all students in all grades
 - g. Practice Advanced Placement English exams, evaluated by outside graders
 - h. Advanced Placement English exams
 - i. IB Language A: English exams

3. West High School recognizes that language is central to all learning, and therefore all teachers are, in practice, language teachers with responsibilities in facilitating communication.
 - a. Teachers are accountable for teaching the vocabulary of their respective curriculums. Whether the content is based in math, science, art, or a specific career field, the teacher is the provider of the common language for facilitating learning in that subject.
 - b. Teachers are expected to have students reading and writing across all curriculums.
 - c. West High School utilizes MyAccess computerized writing program to facilitate increased and improved writing opportunities

4. West High School recognizes that administrators, teachers, librarians, and other school staff require professional development in the field of language learning and teaching.
 - a. Annual professional development is provided by looking at the data of West High School in regards to the English performance on several measures of state testing. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) at West High School incorporates literacy as the first component for school success.
 - b. All school employees are required, within three years of hire, to complete six courses leading to an endorsement in the teaching of English as a Second Language. English speakers of all levels are found in every class, as appropriate at West High School. A focus on language scaffolding is emphasized. On-going professional development is provided for all staff.
 - c. Teachers of IB courses receive training through the appropriate IB sponsored workshops. West High School appreciates and highlights the IB philosophy of learning the curriculum from the perspective of a professional in that field. Students must build upon their language skills as they communicate effectively in the various subject areas.

5. At West High School, all students have equal access to IB courses regardless of their English language background. As related in the West High School IB Admissions Policy, prior student coursework is considered as part of the acceptance process. West High School offers an IB Language B: English option to non-native English speakers. With the future implementation of the IB Career Certificate, West anticipates being able to further serve a more diverse population of learners, with an increased focus on language development.
6. West High School has many practices and resources in place to involve parents in the planning of their student's language profile and development.
 - a. All students have an annual Student Education Occupational Plan (SEOP) conference with their guidance counselor, where student progress in current courses is evaluated and planning for future courses is achieved. Parents are invited and expected to attend these meetings. Translators are available to facilitate communication between families and school staff when necessary.
 - b. Parent Teacher Conferences are held three times annually. Parents are invited and encouraged to make appointments with their student's teachers at any time during the year.
 - c. The English Language Learner Coordinator holds meetings and events specifically for English Language Learners and their parents. The distribution of the results of the UALPA tests requires a parent signature for placement for English Language Development courses. Translators are available for use in this process.
 - d. Students who make application to the IB Diploma program are placed into the appropriate English class based on a placement examination and a teacher recommendation. Please see section 9B of this policy for additional details. Parents are notified of the placement decision and invited to contribute additional information for placement if they desire. Parents are invited to attend the SEOP conferences with the IB Coordinator and the IB Counselor. It is communicated to the parents that they are welcome to speak with the IB staff and teachers regarding any questions or concerns they may have.
7. West High School is very rich in diversity of language and culture. Students come from other 30 different countries with approximately 50 different mother-tongue languages other than English spoken. Of the 2500 student population, 1114 students report that another language is spoken at home. Overwhelmingly, English is the language of instruction and communication used in the school. However, district level translation services exist to develop documents and communication in the most frequently spoken languages other than English.
 - a. West High School currently has 270 students enrolled in English Language Development courses. The primary purpose of these courses is to develop communication skills, build vocabulary, and focus on reading, writing, and cultural norms. These courses are intended to serve students who are relatively new to English, as required by the Office of Civil Rights. This series of courses builds capacity for non-English speakers to acquire academic and social language skills as quickly as possible.
 - b. West High School's IB Diploma community is also very rich in its language diversity. Students come from over 25 countries, with many reporting that they speak a language other than English at home. As such, we offer five IB Language B

courses, including Arabic, French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. In addition, West High School strongly encourages and supports students with Self-Taught languages. With the exception of the Language B courses, all instruction is done in English. The advent of the IB Career Certificate program should enhance the inclusion of students with additional diversity of language needs.

8. It is the policy of the Salt Lake City School District Board of Education, and the governing body for West High School, to comply with federal regulations and state rules while proactively providing instruction and individual accommodations for linguistically diverse students. These mandates are further described in the West High School IB Students with Special Needs Policy, but are briefly outlined here.
 - a. The Utah State Office of Education requires four years of English study for high school graduation, meeting the critical language needs of all students in the United States. www.schools.utah.gov Students are assessed annually with a criterion referenced test in English, as described in the West High School IB Assessment Policy.
 - b. English Language Learners are served by meeting the instructional policies outlined by the federal requirements and the Utah State Office of Education. The Salt Lake City School District has provided these guidelines in a document entitled, The Alternative Language Service Master Plan and Manual for Implementation. www.slcschools.org/.../alternative-language-services/.../Master-Plan-and-Manual-for-Implementation.pdf The Office of Civil Rights and the Americans with Disabilities Act are considered when implementing such practices, as outlined in the West High School IB Special Needs Policy.
 - c. All IB Diploma students and IB Career Certificate students are served under the policies outlined by the IB World Organization.

9. As part of the admission process recent student assessment and demonstrated success in previous coursework are taken into consideration to determine placement for all students at West High School courses.
 - a. English Language Learners are assessed twice annually using the UALPA assessment to determine English language acquisition progress and knowledge, throughout each year of their education in Utah. This information is used for placement in coursework at West High School and continues to be used throughout their time at the school.
 - b. IB Diploma and Career Certificate students are asked as part of the admission process, as outlined in the IB Admission Policy, to provide a teacher recommendation for placement from their current English teacher. In addition, all IB Diploma and Career Certificate applicants are required to take a timed writing assessment that is evaluated independently by two different West High School English teachers. Both the recommendation and assessment are used to determine appropriate placement in Language Arts courses. Neither affects student admission to the IB Diploma or Career Certificate programs. For more information on the admission process, please refer to the IB Programs Admission Policy.

Language Profile for Language B

In the state of Utah, there is no second language course requirement for graduation. We strongly encourage students, knowing that university admissions require a minimum of two years of study of the same world language, to take West High School world language courses. We provide five different languages to appeal to student interests in this field. English Language Learners are required, as are all students, to take four years of English language instruction, as outlined in the Language Profile for Language A.

The development and maintenance of the mother-tongue language is a priority of West High School. Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic courses have all developed out of the need to serve the growing number of students enrolled at West High School for whom these are their first languages. New immigrants and refugees are encouraged to enroll in these courses as a support for the development of their new language, English.

IB Diploma students are required, as per the IB Diploma Program to study a Language B. West High School offers world language based on student interest. Currently, students have a choice to pursue five world languages including Arabic, French, German, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. West High School offers a full range of courses in each of these subjects, and up to nine different levels in some languages to meet differing student needs. We currently offer the following IB course options:

1. Arabic B SL, Arabic ab initio
2. French B SL and HL, French ab initio
3. German B SL and HL, German ab initio
4. Chinese B SL and HL, Mandarin Chinese ab initio
5. Spanish B SL and HL, Spanish ab initio

Initial placement in West High School world language courses is determined by previous experience with or coursework in the language of interest. IB exams in Language B are determined upon the number of courses taken in preparation for the exam.

IB Diploma students who are native speakers of other languages are encourage upon starting their IB Diploma program in 11th grade to select a self-taught language course of study. Each year, we have approximately five students pursuing this option. We have offered IB Special-Request languages when appropriate for students and have been authorized