



Greeley--Evans District 6 IB Language Policy Philosophy

Dos Rios Elementary Primary Years Program, Brentwood Middle School Middle Years Program, and Greeley West High School Middle Years Program and Diploma Program form the Greeley--Evans D-6 IB Continuum. We believe that language is the key to learning and literacy and language leads to success in all content classes. Language gives us the ability to communicate ideas, learn, and think. It allows us to interact with a variety of people. We believe it is the most important link to the world around us. We value language as key to developing critical thinking; therefore, all teachers

in our IB Continuum are Language teachers who teach the skills of communication and literacy across the content classes.

In District 6, we value language development and understand that in order to be internationally minded, students must communicate in more than one language. All IB students enroll in either French or Spanish classes for a minimum of four years, or they are students who are in an ESL/CLD class to acquire their target language: English. The acquisition of language is an active process taught through authentic experiences integrating the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It is our goal to develop the language skills of each student to the highest level, enabling them to communicate successfully in local and global communities and build intercultural understanding.

Background

District 6 consists of a rich mosaic of students from the United States as well as other parts of the world. The diverse languages, cultures, and nationalities found within our schools means there are varying levels of academic and language proficiencies. The students come from over 10 countries and speak approximately 7 different languages, the dominant being Spanish. Of the approximate 1,600 student population at Greeley West High School, around 40% students are identified as English Language Learners as identified by the WIDA-ACCESS. Overwhelmingly, English is the language of instruction and communication used in the school. Greeley West has over 300 students enrolled in English Language Development courses.

Mother Tongue Support

English is promoted as the language of instruction within our district. All students are enrolled in a Language and/or Literature class every year for three to four years.

The development and maintenance of English for all learners is supported by regular assessment of student learning. Greeley West High School offers Oral Language A, B, C and Sheltered content classes such as English 9, 10, American Lit, US History, and Algebra. We also have reading core replacement classes such as Foundational Language Arts A, B1, B2. 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:

1. Three writing tasks annually:

- Persuasive writing task
- Expository writing task
- Narrative writing task

2. Two Common assessments with data cycles that address common core standards

3. School City Assessment administered at midpoint in year to check before state test

4. MAPS, ASVAB, and PSAT assessments of English Language Arts/literacy proficiency

All teachers are expected to:

- a. Have students reading and writing across all curriculums.
- b. Teach the vocabulary of their respective curriculums.
- c. Have students convey meaning of content through speaking.
- d. Have students communicate with fluency in social and academic contexts.

Language Acquisition & Development

At Greeley West High School, all students have equal access to IB Diploma courses regardless of their English language background. We offer an Oral Language B and Oral Language C class (with the focus of language development in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills) to non-native English speakers.

All students have access to year-long Language B Courses. Students enrolled in the IB Diploma Program must complete the two-year Language B course per IB requirements. Most students take four years of a Language B program. To assure preserving students' mother tongue, extension activities and inclusion of higher level synthesis questions are performed.

Students select the Language B course based upon their area of interest and personal goals. Greeley West High School provides 4-5 levels of classes in both French and Spanish. Students who enter with a language proficiency in Spanish and want to take Spanish courses for their Language B, are assessed to identify the level most appropriate for their skill and knowledge.

Greeley West High School has many practices and resources in place to involve parents in the planning of their student's language profile and development. Mailed documents are provided

in both English and Spanish (the primary second language); additionally, the announcements are also made in multiple languages. Other supports include the following:

1. Parent Teacher Conferences are held two times annually. Parents are invited and encouraged to make appointments with their student's teachers at any time during the year. Translation if needed for parents is offered
2. The distribution of the results of the WIDA tests and explanation of test and results before the end of the year which helps determine placement of language classes for following year.
3. Parent phone calls and robocalls are routine allowing parent/teacher communication with Spanish translation.
4. Parents can access the school and teachers' websites for assignments and school news
5. Parents have access to parent portal to access students' grades and assignments

Greeley West offers English Language Development courses for CLD students. 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. Brentwood follows the State of Colorado measure of district growth of English Learners through English language proficiency assessment results (WIDA-Access).

Cultural Appreciation

Greeley West High School is a culturally and ethnically diverse school that develops an understanding of the perspectives of students from different backgrounds and emphasizes on developing global awareness, cultural understanding, bi and/or multilingualism, and global engagement. West develops students' ability to think critically about a range of global issues in all subject areas including science, social studies, math, and English.

- Teachers teach students about global issues and people from a wide range of cultures and traditions. Cultural awareness is promoted by the following:
 - Teachers structure their teaching to acknowledge different perspectives
 - Teachers use scaffolding techniques in instruction for students who are English Language Learners
 - Teachers draw on materials from a range of different cultures that promote understanding and multiculturalism

- Teachers and administrators maintain contact with families
- Culturally diverse annual assembly
- Culturally diverse displays in classrooms and hallways
- Culture Fair/Exhibition

Language in the Learner Profile

Keeping with the Learner Profile, Greeley West utilizes a language-specific Learner Profile as it pertains to the students and teachers.

Inquirer - use language to gain new information or knowledge in order to make sense of the world.

Thinker - able to express thoughts and ideas clearly and succinctly

Communicator - competent users of oral and written language in a variety of situations; listen attentively to details; speak confidently; read and write with fluency and comprehend what is conveyed

Risk-Taker - willing to attempt to read, write, and speak in all situations

Knowledgeable - have acquired vocabulary and understanding to discuss literary styles

Caring - show caring in use of language and the effect language has on others

Principled - aware that language is powerful and has a profound effect; must use it responsibly

Balanced - express themselves orally, visually, and in written form and balance listening and speaking when communicating with others

Reflective - reflect on their language and usage and development and continuously work towards proficiency

Open-minded - respect the differences and similarities in languages, dialects, and personal communication skills

Our language beliefs hold true for all students and we will continuously strive to provide opportunities for our students to learn in rich language environments, keeping in mind the individual needs of each child.

Overall, the District 6 IB Continuum is committed to developing lifelong language learners who use their skills to make a positive difference in the world.

