



World Language Adoption Position Paper



The Beaverton School District serves an incredibly diverse academic community. We believe that our students need the skills and resources to interact and participate in an increasingly global and interconnected world. Students must be able to understand and produce comprehensible language in a variety of contexts. Our multilingual programs support students in the acquisition of language and the development of skills needed to communicate effectively in multiple languages. They gain understanding of the influence and impact of language and culture on life experiences. They acquire knowledge that fosters anti-biased and anti-racist practices and learn the value of diverse perspectives.

Beaverton School District (BSD) Multilingual Programs are in alignment with current, research-based best practices and provide a rich and empowering education to the students of our community. Multilingualism impacts brain development and cognitive functioning across all language backgrounds and is valued across various lived experiences - including heritage, minoritized, and indigenous languages. Students who speak more than one language at home, while at school, or in their community, apply their multilingual skills to both social and academic purposes as demonstrated through empathy for others and higher level thinking.

Our World Language programs ensure that culture and language are inextricably entwined throughout instruction. The curriculum and resources we use intentionally honor and elevate the cultural and linguistic history and diversity of our local community and our world. Course content introduces students to new perspectives and fosters a passion for cultural exploration and language acquisition, encouraging and equipping students to become active and effective global citizens.

World Language instruction provides natural opportunities to identify and reframe current conscious and unconscious biases. Through new and heritage language instruction, students learn to consider the world from multiple perspectives, tearing down systemic racism in the context of a broader racial and ethnic vision, contributing to the anti-biased, anti-racist perspectives that we are working to foster in students across our programs. We approach our work from a desire to engage with, value and learn from various cultural practices, perspectives and products.

Through the study of languages, students participate in a global community that supports and values a wide variety of linguistic experiences and backgrounds. Students learn to understand and appreciate the role of communication in a variety of contexts, both local and across the globe. Students see themselves and learn about others by engaging in human connections beyond what might be common or familiar. They challenge themselves to interact and communicate in new ways using language as a conduit of meaning. As they improve and progress through the language acquisition process, students gain confidence in their own ability to interact with and relate to others.



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They become more open minded and develop empathy as they explore cultures and societies within their local communities and beyond.

A cohesive and comprehensive World Language program that effectively supports the progression of language acquisition over time provides courses that build upon student strengths. Our World Language programs effectively support improvement and advancement through each level of language acquisition, from novice to advanced, as students employ language in increasingly diverse, content-focused, academic and literacy-based activities. World Language courses acknowledge the spiraling nature of language acquisition and the importance of broadening the contexts in order for students to make meaning, communicate and enrich their cultural connections. Teachers are supported by a framework that allows for creativity when integrating target language use and intercultural competencies in instruction.

Our BSD World Language educators are responsive and proactive. They create supportive environments, teach relevant and applicable skills and strategies, provide resources, and model critical thinking. World Language teachers are committed to collaborative practices that continually improve instruction. They believe in the ability and potential of all students to achieve their linguistic goals. Their purpose is to guide, encourage and support students in reaching a high level of language proficiency to become multilingual, multiliterate, and multicultural participants in a global context.

In Beaverton School District, multilingual education is achieved through a partnership among all stakeholders: teachers, administrators, students, families, schools, and our diverse communities. We provide pathways for students to use their developing multilingual skills in a variety of contexts, including employment opportunities and other diverse linguistic experiences. The Beaverton School District is held accountable to create and sustain rich and inclusive learning experiences, in which all students are valued for their diversity, encouraged to think globally, empowered to explore, and challenged to continue in pursuit of their linguistic goals. We must make it our priority to encourage and support multilingualism and build upon the strengths of the diverse community we serve.