

FUHSD World Language FAQ's - April 2023

1. What is FUHSD doing with respect to World Language?

Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, FUHSD is planning to reduce World Language offerings at each high school by one language. There are no changes being made to the World Language offerings for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

2. Why is this change necessary?

FUHSD, like so many school districts across both the County and State, has been experiencing declining enrollment for several years. During this time, District staff have examined many strategies to keep our schools comprehensive and continue offering as many course options as possible. However, with the sharp decline we are currently experiencing, and projections showing that we will decline by about 2,000 students over the next five years, we simply won't have enough students to maintain five levels of four languages at each campus. For many years, we have not been able to maintain the contractually requisite student:staff ratio across our district, leading to overstaffing in certain areas. This overstaffing problem will continue to get more severe as the student population declines, unless changes are made.

3. Which languages are getting eliminated from each school? How was this determination made?

The following languages are being recommended to be phased out at each campus:

- *CHS: Japanese*
- *FHS: French*
- *HHS: Chinese*
- *LHS: Japanese*
- *MVHS: Japanese*

These languages were chosen based on student course requests; i.e. those languages with the lowest student enrollment, taken over a several year period, are the ones slated to be phased-out.

4. Is it true that those students who are currently in the above-referenced languages will not be able to continue studying the same language?

This is not true. All students who have already begun a course of study in a World Language will have the opportunity to continue on in their language throughout their high school career, or until the AP level, whichever comes first. Even current 7th and 8th graders should not be impacted, assuming that two middle school years equate to one high school level.

5. Will teachers lose their jobs as a result of this decision?

We are not planning to lay off teachers or staff at this time. We are hopeful that our continued, careful fiscal planning as a district, which is done in partnership with our bargaining units, will allow us to handle the effects of declining enrollment with the least impact to families and staff possible. Some teachers may have to teach in another area that they are credentialed in. However, we have no plans on laying off teachers or staff at this time.

6. If I am scheduled to attend a high school that does not offer the language that I want, can I request to transfer to another school based on their language course offerings?

As we implement the planned changes to our world language course offerings, this is one possibility that we may consider as we continue to balance enrollment across the district.

We are also going to continue to explore partnerships with community colleges to offer language options through Dual Enrollment.

7. How will the phase out of the languages work at each school site?

The planned process of phasing out one language at each high school will take place over several years. The chart below shows how this step down process will occur over time, ensuring that students who have already begun a course of study in a particular language will be able to complete that course of study through their senior year.

	SY 23-24	SY 24-25	SY 25-26	SY 26-27	SY 27-28
Level 1	Yes	No	No	No	No
Level 2	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Level 3	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Level 4H	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Advanced Placement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes