



**NORTERRA CANYON**  
*School*

## **Deer Valley Unified School District – IB Language Policy**

### ***Philosophy***

The Deer Valley Unified School District International Baccalaureate 6-12 continuum serves a student population and community with diverse language needs and experiences. We welcome these students, and strive to create a learning environment that validates diverse language backgrounds while preparing students to enter and become successful in the global marketplace. In this effort, IB continuum schools and their faculty:

- Recognize that all teachers, regardless of content area, are language teachers
- Prepare all students to be fluent in English
- Encourage students to pursue competency in multiple languages
- Foster an environment where all languages and cultures are appreciated and valued
- Assist students in maintaining and developing their mother tongues whenever possible
- Utilize instructional materials that integrate multicultural and diverse perspectives

### ***IB Standards***

#### **Standard A**

7. The school places importance on language learning, including mother tongue (as appropriate and in accordance with State of Arizona Statute), host country language and other languages.

### ***Profile***

Students attending Deer Valley's IB continuum schools represent a diversity of language needs and experiences. Some of the populations we serve include:

- Mother tongue English students with limited or no exposure to a Language B
- Mother tongue English students with some exposure to a Language B through a primary or middle school experience
- Bilingual Hispanic students who have acquired both English and Spanish since birth
- Bilingual Hispanic students whose parents speak only Spanish but are English proficient as a result of attending school
- Bilingual students of English and another language (Farsi, French, Hungarian, Navajo, Russian, Thai, Tongan, etc.)

### ***Language A***

Deer Valley's IB continuum schools offer a rigorous, engaging Language A curriculum in the English language.

### ***Language B***

Deer Valley's IB continuum schools have implemented a Language B program that allows students the opportunity to achieve proficiency in one or more second languages

### ***Middle Years Program (MYP)***

***Barry Goldwater High School*** and ***Norterra Canyon School*** (candidate school for authorization) offer students a strong, engaging Language B curriculum that is guided by the fundamental MYP concepts of holistic learning, intercultural awareness, and communication. All students are required to pursue competency and literacy in a second language.

At ***Norterra Canyon School***, students begin their study of Language B with French language option. Students receive 60 minutes of Language B instruction every third school day. The current practice of offering students Language B options in French will be continued throughout the MYP application process and beyond MYP approval.

At ***Barry Goldwater High School***, students continue their study of Language B with Spanish and French language options. Students receive 53 minutes of Language B instruction daily. Students with a high proficiency level in their Language B are evaluated using the advance MYP Language B criteria. The current practice of offering students Language B options in French and Spanish will be continued throughout the MYP application process and beyond MYP approval.

### ***Diploma Program (DP)***

The DP at ***Barry Goldwater High School*** offers students a strong, engaging Language B curriculum that leads students to communicative competency and that prepares students for the Standard Level Language B exam. Students in the DP may currently choose to study Spanish or French as a Language B. Self-study has been encouraged in mother tongue languages and Language B abinitio has been offered when appropriate.

### ***English Language Learners (ELL)***

Deer Valley's IB continuum schools are required by law to adhere to specific policy guidelines with students whose mother tongue is not English.

In Arizona, all students must complete a PHLOTE (Primary or Home Language Other Than English) form. If a student identifies a language other than English is primarily spoken, by law, the student is required to demonstrate English proficiency on the AZELLA, adopted by the State Board of Education. If the score is less than proficient then the student is identified as ELL(English Language Learner) requiring ELD (English Language Development) services. The ELD Program is 4 hours of intensive English instruction (given that there are 20 students in a three grade span). This/These students are then reassessed annually until they reach proficiency. Once proficiency is met, the student(s) are reclassified as FEP and treated as native speakers, but are monitored and assessed for the following two years.

In the past, school districts were given relative flexibility in how the ELD program was designed and implemented. Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, however, school districts have become legally constrained to offer ELD programs consisting of a four-hour daily block of English (Conversation, Reading, Writing & Grammar). This new requirement makes it increasingly difficult to provide the IB curriculum for ELL students. In order to meet the requirements of MTP (students receive instruction in 8 content areas), parents of ELL students may choose to opt out of the ELD program's required 4-hour language block so that they may experience the full IB curriculum.

All teachers are required by law to be Structured English Immersion (SEI) trained. SEI best practices and instructional strategies are employed by teacher in language instruction throughout the curriculum.

### ***Mother Tongue Support***

Deer Valley's continuum schools are committed to the continued support and development of students' mother tongues. Whenever, possible we have committed resources in an effort to carry out that commitment.

When appropriate and practical, students at Barry Goldwater High School, whose mother tongue is Spanish, have access to *Spanish for Spanish Speakers*, courses designed specifically to enhance student literacy and fluency in the mother tongue. Our continued effort to expand language opportunities at Barry Goldwater in the near future include adding the option for Spanish mother tongue speakers to prepare for and take the Spanish A2 exam as part of the DP.

### ***Intercultural Awareness***

Deer Valley's continuum schools are dedicated to developing intercultural awareness and international mindedness amongst our students.

***Barry Goldwater High School*** throughout its 30+ year history has a tradition of developing cultural awareness. Students in French and Spanish courses, along with members of language clubs have celebrated cultural awareness with opportunities to showcase their histories, cultures, foods, folklore, dress, music and traditions. Literature classes provide students with access to multicultural readings and study. Students in theatre, music and art experience, study and perform works from a variety of cultures.

***Barry Goldwater High School*** has also promoted international understanding and awareness through the Model United Nations club. Participation in this activity provides our students with the opportunity for interaction with students of various nationalities, languages and cultures leading to the development of international friendships and new understanding of the complex world in which we live.

### **Language Policy Review**

This policy was written originally by the IB Management Team, librarian and staff representation in 2013. It has been reviewed annually by the IB Management Team.

The most recent review and revision was at start of school in July 2024 with both staff and administration from Barry Goldwater High School and Norterra Canyon School.