Grove Park Elementary Language Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the value of language diversity in the school and to support all language learners and their families.

Terminology

- **Language of instruction**: The language in which an IB World School delivers IB programmes and courses to its student population.
- **Response language**: The language in which IB students engage in internal or external assessment.
- **Language course:** In the MYP, DP, and IBCC, an academic course in which IB students acquire a new language, or improve their knowledge of a language and its literature.

Languages Offered

The language of instruction and response language in the school is English.

The school offers the following language courses:

- Spanish

School Population

We have a current school population of approximately 625 students, 39% of those students are ELL. The two native languages that most of our ELL students speak are Spanish and Creole.

English Learner Learners

Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provides Federal funds to the School District of Palm Beach to supplement English language instruction in order to ensure that all English Language Learners, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic language proficiency in English, and meet the same challenging State of Florida academic achievement standards as all Florida students are expected to meet.

Title III in Palm Beach County provides:

- Supplemental instructional materials for students
- Supplemental professional development for teachers, administrators, and non-instructional staff
- Parent involvement calendars
- A summer language acquisition program for secondary English language learners
- Additional bilingual staff to support families and students

ELL students are supported in the classroom by ESOL endorsed English teachers in the self-contained classes. ELL students in other classes are supported through push-in and pull-out small group instruction provided by ESOL endorsed teachers. All instructional personnel on staff received training throughout the year through staff development.

Mother-Tongue Support

In addition to the classroom support the school currently has two language facilitators that support the students and parents with communication and student development.

Communication with Non-English Speaking Parents and Guardians

Formal communication to parents is done through phone calls, emails, letters, and text messages in English, Spanish, and Creole. The language facilitators also translate during conferences, IEP meetings, and school advisory committee meetings. The school also employs an ESOL counselor and bilingual behavioral health professional. In addition many employees are bilingual English/Spanish or English/Creole.

Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders, including students and parents, teachers, and administrators, agree to implement the language policy. They also agree to the following:

- Students: Utilize the supplemental materials needed to support learning.
- Teachers: Provide support to students and communicate with parents and other instructional staff as needed.
- Parents: Support student learning and utilize the services of the Community Language Facilitators (CLF) to communicate with school staff.
- Coordinator: Provide written and verbal communication in our three primary languages to families. Facilitate communication between all stakeholders.

Evaluation of Policy

The IB faculty and administration remain deeply committed to ensuring the success of the language policy. Toward this end, the faculty and administration will review the policy regularly with an eye toward improvement. The policy will be reviewed annually by the School Advisory Committee**.** This policy was last reviewed on September 3, 2024**.**

Policy Distribution

This policy is accessible to all stakeholders on the school website.

Language Committee

The committee members consist of an administrator, SSCC, IB Coordinator, ESOL Coordinator, ESE Coordinator, and Grade Level Chairpersons.