

Adopted: January 23, 2012

Revised: 2/23/26

625 LANGUAGE POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the framework of language, including learning an additional language, valuing the linguistic diversity of our community, and working to support the mother-tongue development of our students and families.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Mother-Tongue - The terms that describe the language students' use at home and/or outside the classroom/school environment include first language, home language, preferred language, mother tongue, native language, heritage language, and sometimes best language. Many second-language students are using more than two languages outside the classroom arena.
- B. Second-Language or Language B - describes a language learned subsequently to a first language, and implies that a student also has access to the language for communicative purposes outside the context of the classroom language.

III. INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE: Diploma Program (DP)

- A. Primary Language: The primary language of instruction in the Diploma Program is English (Language A). All teachers in the Diploma Program are language teachers and are responsible for fostering communication skills. The school offers EL support for students at various levels of English acquisition.
- B. Language B Instruction:
 - 1. Group 2: B HL or SL. This is for the student who has four or more years of experience in the language. Students will learn to communicate effectively, analyze literary texts, and develop fluent language skills. Students are encouraged to continue to build on the proficiency of their Language B choice selected in middle school.
 - 2. Ab Initio Standard. This option is for the student who has little or no experience in the language.

IV. MOTHER-TONGUE SUPPORT

- A. South St. Paul Public School District supports students whose native language is not English and we encourage our parents and students to speak and develop their mother tongue. We offer student Affinity Groups, Spanish literature in our Library Media Center, and a Heritage Spanish

for Spanish Speakers class. This strengthens the students's language skills and cultural identity and awareness.

V. REVIEW COMMITTEE

- A. This policy and its implementation will be reviewed throughout the International Baccalaureate evaluation process.