



South Dade Senior High School

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Language Policy

Philosophy

At South Dade Senior High School, language is recognized as a fundamental means of communication and a crucial foundation for lifelong learning. We believe that all teachers are, in practice, language teachers, with the responsibility to facilitate communication, develop students' literacy skills, and support language acquisition across all subject areas. Language learning is a continuous process that builds critical thinking skills, fosters intercultural understanding, and promotes global citizenship.

We are committed to the IB values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in language teaching and learning. Students are encouraged to develop proficiency in at least one language in addition to their home or personal language, and to appreciate and respect the linguistic and cultural diversity of our community.

Language Learning Requirements

South Dade SHS offers Language A: Language and Literature in English as the primary language of instruction, aligned with IB Diploma Programme requirements. All students in the IB Diploma Programme are required to take Language A: Language and Literature at Higher Level in grades 11 and 12.

Students also take Language B (Spanish or French) courses in grades 9–12, with the choice of Standard or Higher Level determined by proficiency, teacher recommendation, and student goals. These courses develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, as well as cultural awareness.

Home Language Development and Maintenance

We recognize the value of maintaining and developing students' home or personal languages. South Dade SHS supports home language development through bilingual staff, translation services for families, and encouragement of cultural heritage projects. Parents are invited to collaborate with staff in planning their child's language profile and development, ensuring a holistic approach to multilingualism.

Inclusion and Equity of Access

South Dade SHS ensures that students learning in a language other than their home language have equitable access to the IB Diploma Programme. Support services include English Language Learner (ELL) accommodations, targeted reading and writing interventions, and differentiated instruction. Teachers adapt lessons to meet varied language needs, providing scaffolding and resources to ensure inclusion.

Most recent review: August 13, 2025. In consensus with school representatives and IB Teachers and Administrators

Support for Multilingualism

We promote multilingualism as an asset to academic and personal growth. The school celebrates linguistic diversity through cultural events, language clubs, and IB projects. Community languages, including Spanish, Haitian Creole, and others, are respected and represented in school activities, communications, and outreach efforts.

Parent and Community Engagement

Parents are key partners in language learning. We engage parents through conferences, surveys, and planning meetings to inform their child's language profile. Families are encouraged to maintain home language use alongside English development, supporting balanced bilingualism.

Sociocultural Context

South Dade SHS serves a diverse, multicultural, and multilingual student body that reflects the rich cultural fabric of the Homestead and Miami-Dade community. Our language policy is designed to reflect this diversity and to ensure equitable opportunities for all learners.

Policy Review

This Language Policy will be reviewed every two years by the IB Coordinator, faculty representatives, and school administration to ensure it remains aligned with IB Standards and Practices, MDCPS guidelines, and the evolving needs of our students.

Most recent review: August 2025

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