



# Modesto High School

## IB Language Policy

### Language Profile

At Modesto High School we have approximately 2,500 students, and of this population, there are approximately 20 languages spoken. 34% of the student population at Modesto High School speaks English as their first language. 12.5% of the student population is designated English Learners. 73.6% of our students are Hispanic, 8.4% are Asian, 2.4% are African-American and 8.9% are Caucasian.

When a student enters the school district, the parent fills out a Home Language Survey. If a language other than English is spoken in the home, the student is given the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) to determine placement.

Each student enrolled in Modesto City Schools must be formally identified as either a native English Only (EO) speaker, an English Learner (EL), an Initial Fluent English Proficient (I-FEP), or as a Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (R-FEP) student. The following procedures are used to determine the official English proficiency of each student: The parent/guardian completes a Home Language Survey (HLS) section on the Enrollment Card, as required by state and federal law, when registering his/ her student. The English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) is the current state mandated assessment tool used to determine the student's English proficiency status. Assessment Center personnel and/ or certified test administrators administer the test within 30 calendar days of the first day of school, or within 30 days of enrollment. English Learners are administered the ELPAC every Spring until they reach Reclassification status.

Modesto High School (MHS) offers many levels of academic support to its English Learner (EL) population. MHS has a dedicated EL counselor whose job is to monitor EL student academic progress and to address any concerns EL students may have. In addition, the MHS At-Risk Intervention Specialist works closely with the EL counselor to support English learners by giving them technology tools and supports to access grade-level curriculum. English learners who have been in the US for more than one year but are not classified proficient in English are given multiple after-school offerings with Rosetta Stone and Direct Instruction Spoken English (DISE) intensive English Language Development as well as Skooly, an online bilingual tutoring program. Moreover, MHS provides designated English instruction to all identified English learners (ELs) through Academic Language Development (ALD) courses. Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, ALD sections fulfill the "G" requirement of the A-G College Readiness Requirements, and course titles were changed to accommodate this. In addition, the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) System has been very successful for many ELs to support their efforts to be reclassified.

Language acquisition is further enhanced through agreed upon administrative school-wide norms, as each class implements structured peer collaboration, academic speaking and organizational skills. These agreed upon administrative practices have been put in place to ensure the success of EL students in their quest to acquire the English language.

## **Philosophy**

At Modesto High School we believe that language is the primary means of communicating and is crucial to lifelong learning. All teachers consider themselves writing and reading teachers. Teachers in all classes reinforce reading standards and write at least once a week to support writing across the curriculum. Our language program includes, but is not limited to:

- Fosters respect for other cultures.
- Promotes awareness of one's own language and culture.
- Prepares students for collegiate endeavors.
- Prepares students to become productive members of a global society.

## **Current Language Situations and Support for the Teaching of Second Languages**

Language Offerings:

- MHS provides Spanish and French course offerings to the entire school population.
- Spanish for Spanish Speakers is offered all four years to all students.
- Academic Language Development (ALD) courses are offered for all English Learners (ELs).

Support:

- All IB world language teachers have IB training.
- At minimum, monthly department collaboration time is required.
- Professional development is encouraged for all world language teachers.
- All IB world language teachers are offered curriculum workdays to collaborate.
- All world language teachers instruct IB courses as well as courses for the general population.
- All IB teachers are provided access to the OCC.
- All MHS teachers and administrators receive Professional Development each year that includes Language Development per MCS Board Policy 6174.
- All MHS teachers must have a certification to teach English Learners. These certifications include: SDAIE, CLAD, B-CLAD, ELA 1, ELAE, and ELAS.

## **The Development and Teaching of Mother Tongue Languages**

Development and Maintenance:

- Spanish for Spanish Speakers is offered to all students at MHS for all four years.
- All students can participate in both Hispanic Youth Leadership Council (HYLC) and an Asian Student Union as extra-curricular activities. These organizations foster the development and maintenance of the mother tongue and an appreciation of the culture of origin.

- Model UN is offered to all students.
- Students are offered opportunities to serve as translators to assist in communication with the community and with parents.
- The district offers a Multilingual Seal and the state offers a Bilingual Seal for our students.

#### Support and Teaching:

- Four levels of Spanish for Spanish Speakers are offered to all students. Students are tested for proper placement. All students in Spanish for Spanish Speakers classes have the opportunity to take the AP Spanish Language and the AP Spanish Literature and the IB Language SL& HL tests. Literature, language and culture are developed in every course.

#### Communication Practices and Policies

- A school website provides resources and pertinent information for all stakeholders.
  - Teacher emails and contact information is provided.
  - An IB link is provided for parents, current students and incoming students.
- There is also an IB Boosters website for parents.
- Grades of all students are posted on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. All parents and students are provided access to the portal. Teachers are required to update grades at least once every two weeks. Official grades are mailed home 8 times a year.
- All communication that is mailed home to parents is mailed in both English and Spanish.
- Many meetings for parents, including IB Information Nights for incoming freshmen, provide translators.
- Fall and spring evening meetings provide opportunities for all teachers to communicate directly with parents.

#### Links to Working Documents

- Modesto High School IB Website provides links to assessment, academic honesty, language, admissions and special education needs policies.
- The MHS IB website provides assessment schedules and application documents online. Links to the MHS Language Policy are published on the school website.

#### Evaluation & Revision

- The IB Committee has required monthly meetings. Evaluation and revision processes of the Language Policy, including, but not limited to, such documents as Subject Reports and Mark Schemes, are addressed at these meetings.
- Minutes of IB staff meetings are disseminated to administration and staff.
- All IB parents and students are encouraged to attend IB Booster meetings where relevant policies and suggestions for revisions are discussed.
- The IB Coordinator will synthesize evaluations and suggestions from all stakeholders for revision as required.

