

HOUSTON

Houston MSTC Language Policy

“The International Baccalaureate is committed to supporting multilingualism as fundamental to increasing intercultural understanding and international-mindedness and is equally committed to extending access to an IB education for students from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. With these aims in mind, the IB has, instituted its language policy to provide a framework that will ensure that the IB’s values and aims in relation to multilingualism and access are reflected in the organization’s activities.”

-IB Language Policy, 2014

Houston Math Science and Technology Center’s (MSTC) language policy is consistent with the standards and practice of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme. Although Houston MSTC serves a 32% English Second Language (ESL) population, the language of instruction is English. We provide English instruction for non-English speaking and limited-English speaking students through our English Language Learners (ELL) program. Our student population is diverse and rich in many different backgrounds and cultures.

We support:

- ESL students by reading, writing listening and speaking in all classrooms.
- Students in cultural exploration and preservation of their mother tongue.
- Students in the development of 2nd and 3rd languages.

English Language Instruction

Texas Education Agency (TEA) and Houston Independent School District (HISD) sets the curriculum for all Language and Literature instruction. The scope and sequence are followed by Houston MSTC teachers. We differentiate instruction to support the needs of our diverse learners. With the support of Houston ISD’s Multilingual Department, English as a Second Language (ESL) students attend classes designed to be instructed in English either through all content areas or at least one subject area (Ex.: English/Language Arts). ELLs in secondary ESL Programs receive instruction in English using ESL instructional strategies making all content comprehensible.

Language Acquisition

At Houston MSTC, French, Spanish and American Sign Language are offered as Language Acquisition courses. Students strive to develop one other language.

Students who are more advanced in their language proficiency (attended a dual-language school, are a native speaker, etc.) will have the opportunity in Year 2 to take a placement test per HISD secondary guidelines. If they meet certain requirements, they can be placed in to a native speaker class and



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continue to the Year 3 Advanced Placement (AP) course. If he/she do not meet the requirements, they will enter a regular Year 2

language acquisition course.

IB Policy Review

The IB policies will be reviewed by the Leadership team and a voluntary team of teachers annually.

