

Norcross IB Cluster

Language Policy

Philosophy

The Norcross IB Cluster believes that language involves learning the language itself, learning about language, and learning through language. Consequently, every teacher is a teacher of language. As language itself is key to all learning, we value it as central to critical thinking and interpreting the world around us. Language is a necessary component in encouraging understanding and tolerance of other cultures and perspectives. This is accomplished in part by the development of existing languages as well as the acquisition of additional languages through reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Learning of the Host Country or Regional Language and Culture

English is the language of primary instruction and assessment for the majority of courses including the instruction of English Learners (ELs), with the exception of Language Acquisition courses. In addition, English is the language of all student, parental and community communication unless otherwise requested by the student's parent.

Since language is central to all learning, all teachers are language teachers with a responsibility to facilitate communication through instruction in speaking, reading, and writing effectively in the primary school language. This is supported through ongoing school initiatives and professional development.

Mother Tongue Support

When appropriate and feasible, parental communiqués will be communicated in Spanish, as Spanish is the most prevalent language other than English among Norcross IB Cluster students. Students are encouraged to maintain their home language through club associations and community resources that provide immersion and celebrate the culture and language of that language. In addition, the Norcross IB Cluster students are supported by media center resources, in a variety of languages.

Support for Students

Differentiation strategies and/or language acquisition support for learners with specific language learner needs is practiced by Norcross IB Cluster teachers. All teachers have had and will continue to receive professional development in differentiated instruction and to include collaboration with professionals who have been formerly trained to provide support of learners who have a different native language than English. Access to AP and IB classes for students for whom English, the language of instruction, is an additional language will be open and encouraged.

Language Acquisition Goals

All students, in keeping with IB MYP and Georgia post-secondary requirements, are encouraged to learn at least one language in addition to their mother tongue. All students who are fluent in English and one of our Language Acquisition subjects are encouraged to study a additional language.

Process for Review of Policy and Communication

A committee will be formed consisting of key stakeholders from all Norcross IB Cluster schools to evaluate the Language policy annually. During this annual evaluation the policy will be reviewed for needed updates and revisions, as well as to assess the effectiveness of the implementation and to ensure the policy is communicated throughout the Norcross IB Cluster schools. The language policy will be posted on school websites and links will be announced in school bulletins after the annual review. The Norcross Cluster IB language policy will be utilized in conjunction with our school's Assessment, Special Needs, and Academic Honesty policies to help formulate student plans for placement and assessment.

GCPS English Language Learner Programs;

<http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcpsedprogweb01.nsf/pages/EnglishLanguageLearnerPrograms>

GCPS Graduation Requirements;

<http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/polproc.nsf/2eb61728da9e71be85257b550023c4e1/8525684e004e2c2985257e82004583b7?OpenDocument>

International Baccalaureate From Principles to Practice; Language and Identity

International Baccalaureate From Principles to Practice; Multilingualism and intercultural understanding

University System of Georgia, Board of Regents Policy Manual; Undergraduate Admissions, Section 4.2.1.1

Updated Links:

GCPS English Language Learner Programs

<https://publish.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcps/myhome/public/about/curr-inst/content/ell>

GCPS Gradation Requirements:

https://publish.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcps/myhome/public/parents/content/general-info/promotion_and_graduation_requirements

University System of Georgia

<https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/C328/>

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