



GREENVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Spartan **STRONG**

Where everyone learns, teaches, and belongs.

Greenville Central School District

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

LANGUAGE POLICY (Updated September 2023)

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Table of Contents

Statement of Language Policy Second Language Teaching	2
Policy Development	3

Statement of Language Policy

Greenville High School recognizes that although a child may learn to speak English in a relatively short period of time in some cases, it usually takes several years to develop the academic skills to work on the level of native English speaking peers. With this in mind, students are encouraged to use their native languages to aid in their transition to English. New York State accommodations include the use of bilingual dictionaries and electronic translators on state exams for students who are classified as Limited English Proficient (LEP). The Greenville High School IB Coordinator requests similar accommodations for these students on their IB assessments and all IB teachers have received information and support on how to work with students who are non-native speakers of English in their classes.

Additionally, students are encouraged to share and deepen their understanding of their native language and cultures. Greenville High School's English as a New Language program provides academic opportunities to do so. In addition, Greenville High School offers both Spanish and Latin at the IB level and we value the continuation of world language coursework beyond the minimum New York State Education Department requirement.

The Greenville School District provides a comprehensive, free-standing and New York State Education Department approved English Language Learning program for its limited English proficient students. All students in Greenville schools, including Greenville High School, are provided with equal and equitable opportunities to achieve the same educational goals and standards in all programs including the International Baccalaureate Program.

Second Language Teaching

Students in need of ENL/ELL services are identified upon entrance to Greenville High School and receive appropriate English instruction based on their specific needs taught by a New York State licensed English as a New Language Teacher. To determine if a student qualifies for ENL services, he/she takes the NYSITELL (New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners). Depending on their results and proficiency level, the student receives services or exits the screening process. A student in an ENL program is assessed at the end of the year using the NYSESLAT (New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test). Their services are dependent on their results and proficiency on the exam.

The ENL/ELL teacher maintains a close connection between content-area teachers to monitor student progress in all academic areas, including their social strengths and weaknesses. It is important to "recognize that, since language is central to learning, all teachers are, in practice, language teachers with responsibilities in facilitating communication" (Guidelines for Developing a School Language Policy, p.1).

All New York State accommodations are provided for English Language Learners and, for those who are eligible, the IB Coordinator applies for accommodations on IB assessments for these students. Please refer to our IB Inclusion Policy for further information.

Policy Development

Greenville High School is committed to the ongoing collaboration and reflection that is required of implementing a successful school language policy. It is our duty to provide an environment that will foster diversity and encourage the best interest of the entire school community. For that reason, Greenville High School will establish a steering committee when an IB diploma or certificate student is identified in need of ENL/ELL services. This group would include (but not be limited to) the IB Coordinator, content-area teachers, school administrator, ENL/ELL teacher, librarian, parents/guardians, and student.