



Ronald Reagan High School Language Policy

Ronald Reagan High School is dedicated to developing improved language skills and articulation in both students' home/personal language and secondary languages for all students. It is clearly understood that language fluency is critical to academic success, interpersonal and intrapersonal growth, and intercultural understanding.

School Profile

The current student body at Reagan High School reflects diverse languages with students whose families come from many regions of the globe, including:

- Africa
- Asia
- Eastern and Western Europe
- South America
- Middle East
- First Nations

The current student population is over half bilingual. Some of the languages represented include:

- Arabic
- Hmong
- Karen
- Spanish
- Urdu

Language Teaching & Learning Philosophy

All Ronald Reagan High School staff members adhere to these basic language principles to facilitate strong communication & language skills:

- Speaking, writing, reading, and listening are all necessary literacy skills to ensure functionality in society.
- The language skills are vital for academic success across all subject areas and for future employment in an ever-expanding global community.
- Multilingual skills are needed for students to be productive citizens of an ever-changing, diverse world.
- All teachers at Reagan High School are language teachers, and stress the importance of language in human interaction, collaboration, and global citizenship.
- The development of the student's primary language is a critical precursor to the development of a secondary language. Secondary language acquisition affords an opportunity for metacognition about the structure and essential elements of any language.
- Literature instruction is an opportunity to explore intercultural perspectives and to build respect through language usage.
- Literature instruction in both primary and secondary languages must reflect diversity in thought and experiences while promoting intercultural respect.
- Music courses are an outlet where second language practice is also strengthened.
- Second language acquisition is strengthened through strict adherence and guidance of MYP and DP criteria in World Language courses.

Parent & Community Outreach

Our school community values the diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds of our families and strive to create an inclusive environment for all. Our efforts to engage parents and the community include:

- **Home/Personal Language Identification:** We ensure that home and personal languages are accurately recorded in Infinite Campus. This allows us to recognize and support the unique language needs of each family.
- **District-Provided Language Line:** Reagan High School utilizes the district's language line to facilitate clear and effective communication with families in their preferred languages. This resource ensures that all parents have equal access to important information.
- **Inclusive Parent Meetings:** Our school hosts regular parent meetings, where interpreters are available to support families who speak languages other than English. These meetings create a space for dialogue and collaboration while respecting our families' linguistic preferences.
- **Heritage Clubs:** We celebrate cultural diversity through our vibrant heritage clubs, which provide opportunities for students and families to showcase their cultural attributes and assets. These clubs serve as a bridge to deepen understanding and foster appreciation among our school community.

By implementing these strategies, Reagan High School ensures that every family feels welcomed, respected, and empowered to participate fully in their child's educational journey.

Curriculum & Instruction

All Reagan High School students enrolled in Language A courses take the course in English. These classes are offered at the MYP and DP levels and successful completion of 4 credits is a state-mandated graduation requirement.

In addition, all students are required to take Language B classes for at least two years as a district graduation requirement. Students are strongly encouraged to participate for a total of four years in a Language B course, particularly if they are interested in pursuing the IB Full Diploma or the Career-related Programme. Students may choose to enroll in either Spanish or French, while Heritage Spanish speakers are enrolled in a Heritage Spanish course at the MYP & DP levels. In these Group 2 courses, students explore dialects and diverse Spanish and Francophone communities.

Senior-level students also have the opportunity to pursue the Seal of Biliteracy, a nationally recognized credential showcasing multilingual skills, in either their Language B course or home/personal language.

Equity & Inclusion

While English is the principal language of instruction at Reagan High School and offer Language B courses in Spanish & French, we are a culturally diverse community with complex language & learning needs. For students who speak a home/personal language other than the three languages previously listed, we encourage students to hone these language skills both at home and in their local communities.

Students who are considered English Language Learners (ELL) are required, by the state, to demonstrate growth in proficiency via the yearly ACCESS testing. Based on this data, the district is tasked with distributing monetary resources to each school, but how those resources are allocated are decided locally. To support ELL students, we provide tutoring services, offer professional development to teachers in subject-specific areas on how to best support ELL students, and create purposeful connections with ELL families and the school to facilitate trust.

All students, including students with disabilities, participate in Language B instruction. Instruction for struggling students and students with disabilities is differentiated in terms of process, content and learning style to ensure responsible inclusion of the full range of learners within the school. Varying instructional formats and assessments, as described in our Inclusion Policy, also support our diverse student population.

Policy Review

This policy is reviewed every 2-3 years by teachers, school support staff, administration and coordinators. The policy is under review during the 24-25 school year.