



LANGUAGE POLICY

SEMIAHMOO SECONDARY SCHOOL
IB DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

Reviewed November 2022

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INTRODUCTION

As we value access and multilingualism, Semiahmoo Secondary School, including our IB Diploma program, is committed to reach students from a variety of cultural, linguistic, and social backgrounds. At Semiahmoo we recognize that all teachers are language teachers. In addition to language instruction across our classes we offer additional support to English language learners through our multitiered, comprehensive English Language Learner (ELL) programme to support students in developing their English language skills. We are also committed to support languages other than English as 49% of Semiahmoo student body uses languages other than English at home such as Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, and other dialects), Punjabi, Tagalog, Korean, Urdu, Hindi, and more.

Our IB program aims to provide materials and services of high quality in all the languages supported.

WORKING LANGUAGE

A working language is defined as a language in which an organization communicates with its stakeholders, and in which it is committed to providing a range of services for the implementation of the program.

English is the working language of the Semiahmoo IB program. It used for **all** services and materials needed for the delivery, and implementation of the IB diploma program. Therefore, students must be able to provide their work and communicate in English in all classes.

In addition, the following is provided in this language:

- Our public web site.
- All promotional material.
- Official communication and documentation from Semiahmoo Secondary School, Surrey School District 36, and IB.

ACCESS LANGUAGES

Access languages are languages in which the organization will provide selected services and documentation, mainly to support teachers, as specified in this policy.

FRENCH AND SPANISH

French and Spanish are supported and available for study from Grade 8 to grade 12 and in the IB Diploma Programme - as Languages B Standard Level.

SELF-TAUGHT LANGUAGES

Students may self-study languages with support of the self-taught languages coordinator. For the 2022-2023 school year students chose Chinese, Korean, Japanese, French and Punjabi as second Language A courses.

If assistance is required in a language that is not mentioned above, the Welcome Centre staff at the Surrey School District or their community partners could provide assistance in many other languages.

LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR PARENTS

IB Information nights are held for parents and students whose first language is Chinese and Korean with a multicultural and/or settlement worker to translate the coordinator's presentation about the IB programme, IB admission information and during a question-and-answer session. Chinese and Korean students share their experiences in the IB programme, talk about Extended Essays, CAS activities and projects, and highlights in their subject classes. They also help with a question-answer session. Multicultural workers in a number of other languages including Hindi, Russian, Arabic, and Turkish are available for parents and students for communication with the program coordinator, teachers and administration.

MATERIAL PRODUCED BY COMMUNICATIONS

All communications materials are produced in the English language. Occasionally, the Principal's message is translated into and published in Chinese and Punjabi.

PROMOTION OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Languages other than English are promoted through different school events such as Lunar New Year, Ramadan, and Diwali celebrations. Furthermore, students have access to books in languages other than English in the school library.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Levels of support and languages for instruction are put forward by the IB Coordinator to the Principal of School on a yearly basis as course selection becomes available. Each case is considered on its own merits. Budget implications must be considered prior to subsequent approval. The changing of status of any languages will be proposed by the IB Coordinator to the Principal of School.

The **criteria** to introduce new languages or to change the level of support in a particular language will include:

- number of students communicating in a language,
- considerations about specific languages in areas targeted for growth and access,
- as well as costs and available funding.

LANGUAGE POLICY COMMITTEE

The language policy committee will meet once a year to review language policy issues, and whenever a proposal is made to introduce a new language or to change the level of support for a language. The IB DP Coordinator who is also the Self-Taught Languages coordinator, English A and Language B teachers, and administration are involved in revising the school's language policy.

AVAILABILITY OF THE LANGUAGE POLICY

The language policy is available on the Semiahmoo IB web site at www.IBSemiahmoo.ca/resources.