



Shiloh High School

International Baccalaureate Language Policy



Introduction

Shiloh High School has created a written language policy as required by the International Baccalaureate Organization. This document includes the philosophy and aims of Shiloh's language learning and teaching, provisions and options for second-language teaching, language learning for English Language Learners, communicating with parents with limited or no English skills, and mother-tongue language support.

The IB Diploma Program Language Policy is a living document that will be reviewed by the Language Policy Committee each year. Each year, changes will be made according to the needs of the students, staff, school and/or the community.

Philosophy

At Shiloh High School it is understood that:

- Language is the primary means of communicating and learning.
- All teachers at Shiloh High School are language teachers.
- Teachers must strive to recognize the language needs of all students and work to serve these needs within and outside of the classroom.
- The acquisition of language is a life-long process and is a central component of intellectual and personal growth.
- Proficiency earned in one language is transferable to other languages, and language proficiency aids the student in acquiring competencies in other curricular areas.
- Language is an expression of culture and must be valued as an integral part of a student's identity.
- The development of the mother-tongue language is critical for maintaining one's cultural identity.
- Language learning promotes internationalism and multicultural understanding.
- Language learning must be fostered in all aspects of the school community.
- Equity of access to IB courses is a fundamental right of all qualified students.

Objectives

At Shiloh High School our aim is to:

- Enable students to learn and use language effectively, appropriately, accurately, and confidently.
- Develop students' powers of oral and written communication and self-expression.
- Empower students to develop and use language skills in a variety of contexts and purposes.
- Promote the appreciation, understanding, and analysis of a variety of literature.
- Develop students' awareness of the role of language in other areas of the curriculum and to other ways of knowing.
- Support students' mother tongues and their parents, whose English proficiency may be limited.
- Encourage students to explore and reach proficiency in another language as a means to understand the differing perspectives of people from other cultures.
- Support students' mother tongues, while providing English Language Learners programs for developing and progressing in English.
- Differentiate instruction to accommodate all students in the growth and development of language skills.
- Provide an opportunity for enjoyment, creativity, and intellectual stimulation through various activities and clubs outside of the classroom.

School Language Profile

Shiloh has a diverse staff and student body. The working language of the school is English. All courses are taught in English with the exception of our language acquisition classes. Several different languages and dialects are spoken by our staff and students to some degree, especially by those who are more recent immigrants or whose families may have immigrated prior to the staff member's or student's birth. Languages spoken by Shiloh High staff include Arabic, Bosnian, Creole, Croatian, French, German, Italian, Korean, Macedonian, Malayalam, Montenegrin, Russian, Serbian, Slovenian, and Spanish. Languages spoken by students include Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bosnian, Burmese, Chinese, Creole, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Igbo, Indonesian, Khmer, Lao, Oromo, Persian, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Telugu, Tigrinya, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Yoruba.

IB Language Offerings

The language of instruction at Shiloh High School is English.

Language A

English A1 Higher Level (HL) is the course offering for IB Language A at this time. English A Standard Level (SL) is being considered in the future. Shiloh High School would like to give students both options in the future, but currently the HL Language A English class is the only option in Group 1.

No student has chosen or expressed an interest in the Language A School Supported Self-Taught option. Shiloh High School will continue to advertise this and encourage students to consider this as an option for native speakers of other languages. Currently, 5.4% of Shiloh's population is considered an English Language Learner (ELL) with 2% of Shiloh's population receiving direct services through enrollment in English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes.

Language B

Students at Shiloh Middle School have the opportunity to earn a Carnegie Unit in Spanish if two consecutive years are successfully completed. Students can continue Spanish at Shiloh beginning in level two or they can start a new language in French or German. Standard Level or Higher Level French, German and Spanish are offered as Language B options. Ab initio French and German are offered for IB students who have no previous Foreign Language experience before the junior year. Ab initio languages are also offered to foster student interest in studying multiple languages concurrently. Foreign language teachers will assist students in choosing the appropriate level for Language B.

Strategies to support students not proficient in English

English Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) students follow a comprehensive, state-mandated support program for English learning. Board policies and administrative regulations guide the school and the ESOL teacher with specific regulations for advancing and developing our English Language Learners. ESOL students are tested and recommended for appropriate classes. Students in the ESOL program are then evaluated each year to determine English proficiency levels and when students can exit the program. Once students exit, they are monitored for four years to ensure that they are transitioning appropriately. The ESOL classes are a good first step with transitioning students to a new country, language, and culture. ESOL students take classes with native English speakers outside of their ESOL class, which helps them to learn more about the country (United States History and Political Systems classes) and language. Participation of ESOL students in clubs and extracurricular activities also aids them in transitioning to a new culture.

Strategies to support all teachers in their contribution to students' language development

Shiloh High School's teaching staff is trained in the usage of literacy strategies, interpreting English Language Learners' scores on proficiency testing, and methods of differentiating and modifying instruction in support of

English Language Learners through our local school professional development sessions. Additional courses for teachers to learn how to support English Language Learners are also provided through the district office.

Teachers have access to information about our ESOL students in the online portal and work closely with the ESOL teacher to deliver best practices and strategies for our ESOL students in the mainstream classes.

Communication with Non-English Speaking Parents and Guardians

Shiloh staff recognizes the value of effective and timely communication with parents and works to foster such communication. In the case of communicating with parents who do not speak English, Shiloh has the following options available:

- Shiloh staff members (clerks, teachers, etc.) may sometimes fill the role of translator between the school and parents.
- Gwinnett County Schools and the International Newcomers Center provide translated documents in many languages for parents, as well as translators for parent-teacher conferences when requested.
- Our ESOL teacher is also an excellent liaison to our parents of limited English to find resources through the district office to assist families.
- ESOL classes are provided at times during the year through the school for adults in the community.

Support for Mother Tongues

Gwinnett County Public Schools and Shiloh High School acknowledge the importance of developing a student's mother-tongue language in promoting personal identity, cultural heritage, and overall learning. Gwinnett County currently has eight dual language immersion elementary schools. Annistown Elementary School is a feeder school to our middle and high schools, where students are taught in English and Spanish. Parents can apply to attend this school in our cluster if they do not live within the attendance zone boundaries.

Shiloh High School encourages students to continue to develop their mother tongues through our Spanish for Native Speakers classes and in our ESOL classes. Shiloh students, including our ESOL students, have also created and now lead our Multicultural Club where all students are invited to experience various languages, food, and cultural experiences from student-led events. Students also have an opportunity to take part in Foreign Language clubs (French, German, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish) and many take leadership positions within these clubs.

Community facilities, like the Bosnian Community Center near our school and places of worship in various native languages, also provide support to the first languages of our students and their families.

Our Family & Community Education Coordinator/Title 1 Parent Outreach Liaison is also an excellent liaison to our parents of limited English. All parents are encouraged to participate in activities that benefit the development of our students.

Possible actions for Shiloh to progress in further supporting our speakers of other languages:

- Make a list available of all the staff in the building and languages spoken.
- Make a list for the counselors of all students whose native language is not English.
- Group students in advisement classes by native language spoken at home.
- Increase books and resources in other languages in the media center.
- Create signage in different languages around the building.
- Reach out to parents of ESOL students specifically and invite them to participate in school activities.
- Provide different language options for website and electronic communication.