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1. PURPOSE

The New Mexico International School recognizes the importance of language development as a component of being an internationally-minded person. Indeed language permeates the entire curriculum of the school. Acquisition of languages is at the core of our beliefs and a component of our mission. It is the goal of the school for all our children to exit academically bilingual and bi-literate in English and Spanish as well as possess basic communication skills in Arabic. The Governing Council, administration and faculty recognize that multilingualism promotes cognitive development, personal growth and international understanding.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and teachers.

3. REFERENCES/RELATED Policies

None

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1.

5. DEFINITIONS

6. POLICY

6.1. Dual Language Instruction in English and Spanish

6.1.1. Curricular instruction at NMIS will be done in a dual language immersion model of instruction in English and Spanish. English and Spanish will be the primary languages of the school.

6.1.2. All classroom teachers are considered language teachers, teaching in English or Spanish or both.



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6.1.3. The instructional day will be balanced between the two primary languages of instruction according to the table below:

Grade Level	Percent of Instructional Day in English	Percent of Instructional Day in Spanish
Kindergarten and First Grades	10-20	80-90
Second Grade	25-35	65-75
Third Grade	40-50	50-60
Fourth and Fifth Grades	45-50	50-55

6.1.4. Students will receive at least 3 hours per day of instruction in Spanish in all grade levels.

6.1.5. Teachers will employ sheltered instruction techniques to scaffold learning for children who are being taught curriculum via their non-native language.

6.2. Mother Language Support

6.2.1. Mother language support will be provided by access to reading materials in multiple home languages in the school's library

6.2.2. The school will encourage families to continue reading, speaking and writing their mother language in the home.



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- 6.2.3. Students needing remedial support in English as native language will receive additional support via the school's Tier 2 Intervention Support, as part of the overall Response to Intervention Program.
- 6.2.4. Teachers of multilingual classes will be appropriately endorsed in Bilingual Education or possess appropriate waiver.
- 6.3. Identification of non-Native English speakers needing additional support in English (ELL Students)
 - 6.3.1. Parents of all students new to NMIS will complete a Home Language Survey to identify if the child is possibly an English Language Learner.
 - 6.3.2. If the child is identified as possibly ELL from the Home Language Survey, he/she will be administered an ELL screening tool.
 - 6.3.3. If the child scores below the required threshold, he/she will be considered an English Language Learner and so reported to the state.
 - 6.3.4. ELL students will receive additional English language support by a teacher with appropriate endorsement in Bilingual Education or Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), or appropriate waiver.
- 6.4. Arabic as third language
 - 6.4.1. Students will begin receiving instruction in Arabic beginning in 3rd or 4th grade. This instruction will account for 5-10% of the instructional day in these grade levels.
 - 6.4.2. Arabic will be taught as a subject in itself. Curricular areas will not be instructed in Arabic.

7. ATTACHMENTS

Forms
Form Titles



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8. REVISION HISTORY

Version Number	Effective Date	Description of Document Revision
1.0	CURRENT	New

STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE

This document was drafted by the Language Policy Committee and recommended for adoption by the NMIS School Advisory Committee on 27 January 2016 and formally adopted by the NMIS Governing Council on 18 February 2016.

Any future additions, deletions, or amendments of this Policy are to be recorded on the REVISION HISTORY of this policy. These revisions will state the date of revision, section revised, and authorization of the revision. A copy of the complete revision will become a permanent part of this Policy.