

HAYS CISD GUIDE TO STUDENT SUCCESS IN WORLD LANGUAGES



WORLD LANGUAGES / LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

The Hays CISD World Languages Department is committed to the belief that learning multiple languages is a fundamental component of education that prepares students to succeed as global citizens in our multilingual society. Students become aware of multiple perspectives and means of communication, which lead to an appreciation of difference and diversity. In the 21st century world languages classroom, students gain an understanding of two basic aspects of human existence: the nature of communication and the complexity of culture. Communication is the overarching goal of world languages instruction. Students should be provided ample opportunities to engage in conversations, to present information, and to interpret culturally authentic materials in the language of study. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) identifies three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational.

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Students engage in direct oral or written communication with others such as face to face exchanges, participating in digital discussions and messaging, and exchanging personal letters.

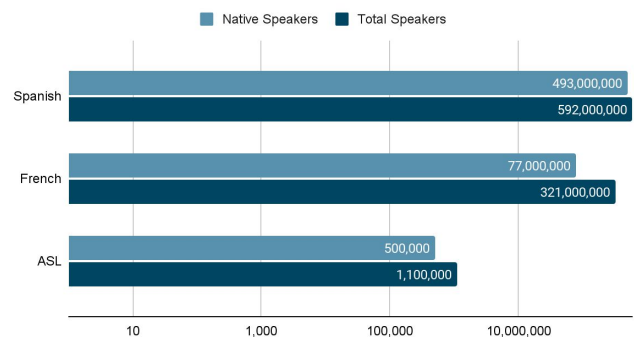
INTERPRETIVE COMMUNICATION

Students demonstrate understanding of spoken and written communication within appropriate cultural contexts such as comprehension of digital texts as well as print, audio, and audiovisual materials.

PRESENTATIONAL COMMUNICATION

Students present, orally or in writing, information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers such as presenting to a group; creating and posting content; or writing reports, compositions, or articles for a newspaper.

Number of Speakers of Languages Offered in Hays CISD



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Read and listen to the language.
 - Books, music, TV shows, etc.
- Find your reason to learn the language.
- Look for cognates, words that look similar and have similar meanings.
- Play vocabulary and grammar games.
- Speak in class with your teacher & classmates.
- Make mistakes in the language. They are the best tool to learn a new language.



PLANNING FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

At the beginning of high school, sit down with your student's teachers, counselor or other advisor to discuss what it will take for your child to graduate, your student's goals, and their plans for after high school. Create a plan together to help your student reach these goals.

Their high school plan should include:

- Successfully complete a minimum of 2 consecutive levels of the same world languages course: American Sign Language, French, and/or Spanish.
- Most post-secondary institutions prefer 3 or more levels in a world language. Also, students should consider take a world language at the AP level to potentially earn college credit(s).
- It is important for students to choose the right language for their interests and/or for their future career. We recommend considering the following career-specific language options:
 - **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources:** *Spanish*
 - **Architecture & Construction:** *French, Spanish*
 - **Science, Technology, & Engineering:** *French*
 - **Hospitality & Tourism:** *ASL, French, Spanish*
 - **Culinary Arts:** *French, Spanish*
 - **Business Management & Administration:** *French, Spanish*

BENEFITS OF TAKING THREE OR MORE YEARS OF A LANGUAGE

In addition to meeting the future needs of students, language learning has been shown to greatly enhance student performance across the curriculum. Language learning has been shown to improve a student's cognitive function, including, but not limited to:

- Enhanced Problem Solving Skills
- Improved Verbal and Spatial Abilities
- Improved Memory Function (long & short-term)
- Enhanced Creative Thinking Capacity
- More Flexible and Creative Thinking
- Improved Attitude Toward the Target Language and Culture

These cognitive benefits of language learning have been shown to enhance student performance producing:

- Higher standardized test scores
- Higher reading achievement
- Expanded student vocabulary in native language
- Higher academic performance at the college level

<https://www.actfl.org/resources/guiding-principles-language-learning/benefits-language-learning>

