

Briscoe Elementary Language Policy

Campus Mission Statement:

The mission of Briscoe Elementary is to provide students with tools and opportunities to take ownership of their learning and become contributors to the world.

La misión de Briscoe Elementary es proveer a los estudiantes herramientas y oportunidades para que se apropien de su aprendizaje y se conviertan en colaboradores del mundo.

Purpose:

This policy is a reflection of our school's beliefs and values about language and is a statement of the purpose and practices for teaching and learning language at Briscoe. It describes how we will achieve and evaluate our goals of providing support for the mother-tongue languages and offering second-language teaching to all students that reflects the principles of the PYP.

Language Philosophy:

Language is the foundation of learning and essential to communication within the learning process. All teachers, parents, and staff member are teachers of language and value it as the most significant element connecting curriculum. Language is the major contributor for listening, speaking, reading, writing, and is the tool students need for transdisciplinary learning and inquiry. Learners are encouraged to listen, think, discuss, and reflect on information and ideas to engage in the world around them. Language is critical to the development of international mindedness. Honoring the mother-tongue of our students is crucial to respecting and inquiring about and developing cultural awareness. To encourage the cultural identity of our learners, families are encouraged to speak, read, and write in their mother tongue and appreciate their contribution to our world's valued diversity.

Campus Language Profile and Identification:

All parents of students enrolled at Briscoe Elementary must complete a Home Language Survey to identify language proficiencies and needs. The Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) will determine language proficiencies. Placement of a student in either Bilingual will be established by the committee. The state of Texas requires that every student with a home language other than English and that has Limited English Proficiency be provided the full opportunity of the (ESL) bilingual education programs. Students will be classified as either native language (L1) or language being acquired (L2). The Woodcock-Munoz Language Survey Tests 1 and 2 will be used to test new students in Pre-K through 1st grade and tests 1,2,3,4 will be used to test new students in 2nd through 5th grade who have not been identified as LEP by another school and whose Home Language Survey indicated a language other than English.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) designed the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) to assess the progress that Limited English Proficient (LEP) students make in learning the English language. This assessment is taken from Kindergarten through 12th grade each year and aligns with the Texas English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS). TELPAS includes evaluations in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Teachers are trained to interpret writing samples using the state rubric (beginning, intermediate, advanced, and advanced high) and LEP students in grades 2-12 take an online reading assessment in order to measure their progress during a given school year.

San Antonio Independent School District Policy E-1 Bilingual

Language Instruction:

Students at Briscoe Elementary grades 2 through 5 will receive _____ language instruction for 30 minutes per week by a certified _____ teacher. In specials class, students will learn to speak the language, learn about the language (conventions and structures), and explore cultures of _____ - speaking countries. Students will learn about different locations throughout the world that speak the language. They will also learn about different customs, basic greetings and phrases as well as numbers. The class will be taught as an exploratory course so that students can be better informed of the world around them as well as able to make a better decision when moving onto Harris Middle School where they will have the option of learning either Spanish or French.

Instructional Strategies and Practices:

The primary language of instruction at Briscoe Elementary will be English. Teachers will support the acquisition of oral and written language through the following approaches to learning:

1. Modeling
2. Language taught through the curriculum
3. Transdisciplinary skills of reading, speaking, writing, and listening
4. Cooperative learning
5. Eliciting prior knowledge
6. Making connections
7. Differentiated instruction

Parent Support:

Parents will be included in the language development of their children through:

- Parent English Second Language (ESL) classes
- Newsletters/Flyers distributed in English and Spanish
- Bilingual Parent Liaison
- Campus Literacy Night
- Parent Volunteers
- Reading Logs will require a parent signature

Assessment:

Student language will be assessed on the district guidelines and campus assessment policy.

Communicating the Policy:

- The policy was shared with stakeholders. Feedback was received and incorporated into the policy.
- Letter
- Campus website
- Family events
- Student/parent handbook
- Staff handbook

Professional Development:

- The school will undertake a study of the Role of Language in the PYP by planning to attend the requisite workshop at an IB-recognized professional development
- Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS)
- Language integration training
- SIOP Training

Reviewing the Policy:

The Language Policy is a working document which requires ongoing review and revision based on the needs of the student population at Briscoe Elementary.

- The IB / Campus Leadership Team (CLT) will approve edits to the policy yearly

Resources:

The following resources were used in the construction of the Briscoe Elementary Language Policy.

IBO documents accessed January 2018 from www.myib.org .

- International Baccalaureate Organization Language Policy document (February 2014).
- Language Scope and Sequence, IBO 2009.
- Making the PYP Happen, A curriculum Framework for International Education, IBO, December 2009
- Guidelines for Developing a School Language Policy, IBO 2008
- Language policy examples from various PYP Schools
- San Antonio Independent School District Policy E-1 Bilingual