

698 District Language Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the framework of language instruction in Fridley Public Schools, including learning an additional language, valuing the linguistic diversity of our community, and working to support the mother-tongue development of our students and families.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Each building will establish appropriate language practices to use at grade levels and within subject areas. These language practices will follow the guidelines set forth below.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Primary Language Instruction** refers to the language of instruction in all subject areas. In Fridley Public Schools, the primary language of instruction is English.
- B. **Mother-Tongue** Describes the language(s) students use at home or outside the school environment. Many of our students use more than one mother tongue language outside the classroom environment.
- C. **Language Acquisition** describes a language learned subsequently to a mother tongue language. Our primary instructional language (English) can also be considered language acquisition for students who speak another mother tongue.

IV. MOTHER-TONGUE SUPPORT

The Fridley School District supports families whose native language is not English. We encourage our parents and students to speak and develop their mother tongue at home. This strengthens the child's language skills while instilling a sense of importance about his/her culture. We also provide families with translation services as needed, through the use of interpreters and/or translated documents.

V. REVIEW COMMITTEE

Each building will review this policy and its own language practices during their regularly scheduled International Baccalaureate evaluation process, or on an as needed basis. The review committee will be made up of the building principal, IB coordinator, and representatives from the building leadership team.

School Board Action:
Adopted May 19, 2009
Revised June 21, 2016