



Manara Leadership Academy

400.505 IBDP Language Policy

PHILOSOPHY:

International Baccalaureate mission statement:

The International Baccalaureate® aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

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Mission Statement: Manara Academy will provide students with a creative, adaptive, and ethical environment to prepare them to become knowledgeable inquirers in a diverse and evolving global society. We are committed to providing high academic standards, cultural awareness, as well as requisite skills for language mastery. Manara Academy is committed to supporting the needs of our school community while building on the strengths of students' cultural heritage and life experiences.

At Manara Leadership Academy, English is the language of the IBDP instruction, and admissions requirements, as well as assessments are conducted in English to ensure all students can access the Diploma Programme curriculum, with the exception of foreign language classes. We also ensure support for our ESL students as needed and required. While the IB Diploma Programme requires all students to take an IB English class, Manara Leadership Academy emphasizes the importance for students to keep using their mother tongue in informal situations, as well as to access daily news. Those languages are the students' heritages and cultures.

PRACTICES:

Admissions:

Manara Leadership Academy is a public Charter school and proficiency in English is not a requirement. For students who do not speak English, a language proficiency test will be given to assess the needs for additional support services.

The IB Diploma Programme at MLA accepts application from all students meeting the requirements. All students will undergo the same application process which is described in the admission policy. The duty of all teachers and staff members at MLA is to provide a caring environment to all students regardless of any language proficiency.

Policy communication:

The administration is responsible for communicating this policy to students, their families, teachers as well as all staff members. Each is individually responsible for reading every policy.

IBDP Language course offerings:

Language A is limited to the English language. Language A learning aligns with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as well as with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme objectives. The pursuit of proficiency in a second language at Manara Leadership Academy is mandatory in all grade levels.

Entering the IB Diploma Programme, students will choose to develop their skills further in Arabic, Spanish, French, or other approved language. Students will be provided with a continuum of Language B instruction from grade 7th through grade 12th. The Language B courses are assessed following the requirements of the Texas Education Agency and the IB Diploma Programme.

Finally, students entering the Diploma Programme will be provided with sufficient resources and school support to access the self-taught option in group 1. This option will enable students to maintain their mother-tongue development. To access this option, students will meet with the IB coordinator and the academic counselor to ensure Texas requirements are met and that the students' language proficiency enable them to follow the self-taught pathway.

IBDP Language support across curriculum:

As reading and oral communication take place in all classes, all teachers are to help students develop their language skills while monitoring their progress. In order to reach all levels

of language proficiency, teachers are expected to use various tools to help differentiate instruction. To do so efficiently, teachers are provided with common planning period to help build out cross-curricular lessons and develop our best instructional practices while emphasizing literacy and development of language skills. All staff members are also to refer to the Manara Academy Best Practices handbook.

English Language Learner (ELL):

Manara Academy's establishment of bilingual education and English as a Second Language support is taken directly from Texas Education Agency's Bilingual Education and Special Language Programs code: section 29.053. Students learning English as a second language will be assessed within the first four weeks of enrollment, and the LPAC committee is responsible for identification and placement. Staff will offer bilingual education, language programs, instruction in English as a Second Language, and language support in grades 9th through 12th. Staff will have English as a Second Language professional development hours.

Policy revision provision:

The policies are annually reviewed and revised by the responsible committees, coordinators, teachers, Principal, and the Manara School Board.