

Quabbin Regional High School Language Policy

QRHS MISSION:

Our mission is to prepare students to become self-reliant, lifelong learners who are responsible and resourceful citizens in a global society.

PHILOSOPHY:

Quabbin Regional High School is committed to our mission of preparing students as responsible and resourceful citizens in a global society. We believe that the pursuit of language extends beyond vocabulary and grammar and is a critical tool for deepening our understanding of people around the globe. Language allows us to communicate, develop an appreciation for cultures, and explore various mindsets throughout the world.

WHOLE-SCHOOL GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Language acquisition offers insight into our world through an appreciation of differing perspectives and cultures while strengthening the skills necessary to flourish in the 21st century. Therefore, Quabbin Regional High School promotes language acquisition across curricula in order to reinforce cultural-awareness, international-mindedness, and the development of 21st century literacy.

Quabbin Regional High School places an emphasis on the study of language, both foreign and mother-tongue, to promote greater learning, achievement, and understanding. The study of written and spoken language allows students to consider what they are learning from various perspectives, thereby deepening their content knowledge and understanding. In addition to foreign language studies, linguistic analysis and study in all departments allow students greater access to the content and to critical thought. For example, the analysis of mathematical and scientific vocabulary and symbols allow for greater comprehension and literacy in these areas; the arts examine communication across cultures through visual representations and music; and in history and English courses students reflect on the deeper meaning of the words and phrases throughout the course.

PRACTICES:

Requirements

Quabbin Regional High School requires all of its students to complete two years of study in one foreign language, although three years of study is highly recommended for any student considering post-secondary education. There are no grade requirements for students hoping to enroll in an IB Language course at any level. Students do need to complete two years of study in one language prior to enrolling in a Standard Level (SL) course.

Quabbin Regional High School currently offers Spanish in SL, Spanish *ab initio*, and Mandarin *ab initio*. *We will continue to consider the needs of students and the program and adjust course offerings as needed.*

Mother-Tongue Development and Maintenance:

In order to maintain and develop the mother-tongue, Quabbin Regional High School currently requires all students to take four years of English. Quabbin Regional High School students are

required to take common English coursework in grades 9 & 10 and literature-based courses work in grades 11 & 12.

These courses maintain and develop the mother-tongue primarily through practice: reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction (written in English and in translation), writing on a regular basis (such as journals entries, essays, written responses to essay questions and prompts), engaging in public speaking (oral reports, class participation), and studying vocabulary. The goal of these courses is to develop literacy and communication skills while deepening student understanding of the English language.

English Language Learner (ELL)

1% of Quabbin Regional High School students do not speak English as their mother-tongue. In addition, 0.1% of students are identified as limited-English proficient. Quabbin Regional High School seeks to identify students whose primary language is not English and support their pursuit of English and proficiency scores on state exams.

Student considerations and teacher training are overseen by the Director of Student Services, who ensures appropriate staff training and resources in order to meet the needs of our ELL student population.

Special Education Needs (SEN)

Quabbin Regional High School provides all students equal access to academic programs and services. Many special education students enroll in world language classes; however, some students are exempt from the language requirements if dictated by their individualized educational plan (IEP). Based on the student's disability, some students may have one or more years of their language study graduation requirements waived; although, a student attempting the full IB Diploma must complete the IB language requirements. All decisions regarding a student's IEP and language requirements or waivers are made in Special Education team meetings.

Updates and Revisions

This document will be reviewed bi-annually by the Steering Committee and updates and revisions will be made based on student population, demographics, and program needs.

Communication

This document is available to all segments of the Quabbin Regional School District community via the school's website, the academic guide, and the student handbook.