



Aynor High School



201 Jordanville Road • Aynor, SC 29511

Phone: (843) 488-7100 • Fax: (843) 488-7101 • ah.horrycountyschools.net

Aynor High School Academy of Advanced Studies

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Language Policy

Introduction

Aynor High School seeks to empower each student to be a positive, productive member of society through an innovative education which focuses on the individual development of every student as they become internationally minded and an integral, contributing part of a global society.

Philosophy

We understand that to create international mindedness, we must ensure that students are not only fluent in their mother tongue, but we must also provide instruction in another world language. Our faculty and staff recognize that language is the central pillar that supports learning; therefore, language and literacy instruction is a focus for every content area teacher. We foster an environment where all languages and cultures are appreciated to prepare students to thrive in a global community. English is, however, the primary language of instruction for Horry County Schools and Aynor High School. Language intervention services are available at Aynor High School for students who require support.

Aynor High School offers IB students the opportunity to complete English A1 Higher Level as their Language A, and to ensure they are exposed to a second language learning experience, we offer Spanish Ab Initio. This course of study gives students an opportunity to explore the differences and similarities, language, and history of a culture that could be an integral part of their future.

Language Profile

Aynor High School serves a rural community where the mother tongue is English. The populations we serve include

- English only background students with little or no Language B proficiency
- English only background students with some exposure to Language B through a middle school exploratory program
- Bilingual students who have acquired both English and another spoken language since birth

- Bilingual students who are English proficient as a result of attending school or identified as LEP (Limited English Proficiency) by our district and are receiving support
- Aynor High School 2023-24 Statistics
 - 892 Students
 - 62 ESOL Students; three languages spoken: Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish
 - 25 students identified as LEP; receive support services; non-IB track
 - 2 students identified as LEP; monitoring services only; non-IB track
 - 1 student originally identified as LEP; exited program; IB Diploma track
 - 3 student originally identified as LEP; exited program; IB Course only

Mother Tongue Support

While we acknowledge the importance of cultural identity and language of students who are not English first speakers, our school does not currently provide preservation options for those students due to a lack of demand. Our English Language Learner population is small but is growing. As needs develop, we will seek to add preservation options for our students.

In addition, the following services are offered by our district and school to provide support for students who are English Language Learners (ELLs):

Horry County is the third-largest school district in South Carolina, and, consistent with national trends, has experienced rapid and significant growth in its Multilingual Learner (ML population) over the last few years, from approximately 900 ELLs in 2007 to over 5,200 at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Currently, our ML population represents over 50 world languages from 76 countries. The top five languages in our district are Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, and Portuguese.

The HCS ESOL program provides students with the opportunity to reach proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing as measured on the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English language proficiency assessment, the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-state (ACCESS) for English Language Learners. In addition, Horry County must also comply with the federal requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Horry County Schools is committed to providing all students equal opportunity to benefit from educational programs and services. Further, Horry County Schools is committed to supporting scientifically research-based and effective appropriate programs, practices, training, and accountability so that all students can become proficient in English and can achieve the state's academic content and student academic achievement standards.

Professional Development in Language Learning

Horry County Schools (HCS) provides an English as a Second Language (ESOL) program that offers services to students and to all professional staff. Students of a mother tongue other than

English are provided an array of language-support services by an ESOL instructor that may include an ESOL course and one-on-one tutoring. Furthermore, teachers of identified ESOL students are required to provide and document accommodations and differentiation of instruction for the identified ESOL students.

The ESOL instructor provides instruction and guidance for teaching and supporting identified ESOL students. All professional staff receive professional development from our ESOL instructor each school year and benefit from the support services provided by the ESOL instructor and other district staff.

Many of our teachers are also participating in Sheltered Instruction Training and Coaching support through the IDRA (Intercultural Development Research Association). Each year more teachers will begin the program to ensure we provide the greatest level of support to our English Language Learners.

Communication and Parental Involvement

On an annual basis, each student and a parent are required to participate in an Individualized Plan of Instruction (IGP) meeting with a grade-level counselor. In turn, the grade-level counselor shares specific learning needs and language instruction with the teachers of that student.

Parents and students of a mother-tongue other than English who are receiving instructional services from the ESOL instructor are required to meet with the ESOL instructor to discuss a plan for English-language acquisition as well as to outline specific support services available to ESOL students.

Our school and district also provide translation and communication services for English Language Learners through Transact and Pacific Interpreters.

The language of this document will be posted on the web page of the AHS IB DP. The language policy document will be shared electronically with all students, parents, AHS staff, IB teachers, and community members during presentations highlighting the AHS DP.

The language policy reflects guidelines found in the Horry County Schools District webpage for academic services and ESOL (2023) and Programme Standards and Practices, Culture through Policy Implementation Standard 3 (2020).

