

# Southridge Tech Middle School

## LANGUAGE POLICY

### *Philosophy*

Southridge Tech has designed the English Learner program to assist students in acquiring English skills in the domains of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Teachers encourage to use written and oral language in different contexts and enable them to communicate their opinions, thoughts, and feelings in ways that help them reflect on their learning and make connections with the world. Students read, speak, write, listen, and view curriculum and resource in various settings. Their teachers utilize an inquiry-based approach to help students explore language and become communicators in a multilingual world.

### *California Education Code*

California Education Code (SECTION 30-

Southridge Tech Middle School language instruction is acquiring and applying listening and speaking skills to enhance comprehension and communication.

### **Instruction and Assessment in Language Acquisition**

#### ***Beliefs and Practices:***

Becoming culturally and linguistically proficient in two or more languages is the essence of Language Acquisition instruction for Southridge Tech Middle School. However, the acquisition of language is seen as a continuum along which each student progresses in various courses. To provide students with an authentic and diverse language acquisition learning experience, teachers will:

- Use the MYP aims and objectives as best practice
- Set goals based on an outcome of proficient communication, regardless of a student's starting point or background in the language
- Include aspects of culture as part of the curriculum
- Employ an interactive approach to language learning Southridge Tech Middle School
- Integrate the skill areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing
- Embed grammatical structures and vocabulary development within the instruction
- Use formative assessments to drive instruction
- Design instruction for authentic summative assessment
- Provide opportunities for students to take action within the larger community

#### ***Language of Instruction***

The primary language of instruction for Southridge Tech Middle School is English. Through schoolwide direct instruction, students develop the fluency and literacy skills necessary to ensure their ability to communicate effectively. As required by the State of California, teachers implement the State and federal standards

***Strategies to Support Teachers and Students***

All educators at STMS are responsible for the development of student language. Therefore, teachers, administrators, and support staff will continue participating in ongoing professional development to improve literacy instruction, and our site has access to a Teacher on Special Assignment to provide additional support and development for staff. Administrators dedicate time for teachers to collaborate and plan ways to support the diverse language and instructional needs. Our FUSD language and inclusion policy explains the different tiers of language support for students to participate in all courses fully.