

Student Exam Performance

Participating students have consistently performed well on the AP Spanish exam.

Percentage of Students Scoring 3, 4, or 5 on the Exam



Source: District Reported Data

Course Credit

The number of Spanish language high school graduation credits awarded to students for taking this course while in middle school is determined by the local school district.

AP Spanish Language is the equivalent of Spanish IV. Thus, many districts award credit not only for Spanish IV but also for prerequisite Spanish courses. Some districts may require students to earn credit by examination before awarding high school credit for lower level courses. Other districts have developed validation or credentialing policies to award credit automatically for lower level courses when an upper level course is successfully completed.

The district should evaluate local course credit policies to determine whether or not modifications should be made to support the program. Local policies can promote the success and impact of the program.

The amount of college credit students earn based on exam scores is determined by individual colleges and universities.

Contact Information

Dalissa Brandenburg

Director of AP/IB Incentives
Texas Education Agency
512.463.9581
curriculum@tea.state.tx.us

María Fierro-Treviño

Director of Languages Other Than English
Texas Education Agency
512.463.9581
curriculum@tea.state.tx.us

Marilyn Peebles

Coordinator, Advanced Academic Programs
Education Service Center, Region XIII
Office of Statewide Initiatives
512.919.5392
marilyn.peebles@esc13.txed.net

Visit the Texas
Middle School Program
for AP* Spanish
website at
www.teamiddleschoolspanish.org
for additional information.

Texas Middle School Program for AP* Spanish

Administrative Overview

*AP, Advanced Placement Program, and Pre-AP are registered trademarks of the College Board, which does not endorse nor was involved in the production of this brochure.

Purpose

The purpose of the Texas Middle School Program for AP Spanish is to raise the academic expectations of Spanish-speaking students and engage them in early preparation for college.

Why Offer Advanced Courses to Spanish-Speaking 8th Graders?

- The research on college access and success supports it.
- The AP Spanish Language course prepares students to be successful in the Recommended High School and Distinguished Achievement graduation programs.
- The AP Spanish program supports the goals of No Child Left Behind.
- The AP Spanish program promotes learning opportunities for at-risk students and may contribute to drop-out prevention.
- Advanced courses help address the needs of an increasing Spanish-speaking population in Texas public schools.

AP Spanish Language

AP Spanish Language is a course that develops students' proficiency in all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students enrolled in this course should have a basic knowledge of Spanish language and culture as well as intermediate-low level proficiency in the language skills.

Students scoring 3 or better on the AP Spanish Language examination demonstrate performance equivalent to students who have completed several semesters of college Spanish language courses.

Curriculum

The curriculum for the middle school program follows the College Board guidelines and objectives outlined for the AP Spanish Language course. In addition, the curriculum covers the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Languages Other Than English, which are required state standards.

Participating middle school students take the same AP Spanish Language examination as students who take the course in high school.

Student Benefits

Pilot schools found more than 89% of the participating middle school students scored high enough on the AP Spanish Language examination to be eligible for college credit.

Participating students also reported

- increased confidence in themselves and in their academic abilities;
- fewer disciplinary problems and absences;
- improved performance in other classes;
- increased enrollment in other honors and AP courses in high school;
- enhanced perceptions of college as an attainable, realistic goal; and
- improved skills that transfer to other test-taking experiences, including the state testing program.

Innovative programs like the Texas Middle School Program for AP Spanish can positively impact Hispanic college-going rates in Texas.

Eligible Students

Students should consider taking this course if they

- are Spanish speakers;
- have an intermediate-low level proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing; and
- are willing to participate in a challenging educational opportunity.

