

Texas Middle School Program for AP* Spanish

Parent Brochure



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.

Course Credit

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.

Parents and students should review local district policy or talk to a knowledgeable school official about award of course credit.

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

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Visit the Texas
Middle School Program
for AP* Spanish
website at

www.teamiddleschoolspanish.org
for additional information.

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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.

Program Summary

Research shows that the rigor of academic coursework a student undertakes in high school is key to predicting whether or not that student will go on to college and succeed there. Historically, minority students have not been well represented in college-preparatory courses.

To open up opportunities for college success for the state's Spanish-speaking students, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) created the Texas Middle School Program for AP Spanish in 2000 with a grant from the United States Department of Education (USDE).

The program encourages districts to offer the AP Spanish Language course to Spanish speakers while they are still in middle school. The program is designed to turn these students' first language into an academic asset, allowing them to take advanced courses early in their school careers.

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.

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.

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;
- 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.

Recommended High School and Distinguished Achievement Programs

Middle school students participating in the AP Spanish Language course are eligible for high school credit. In most districts, students successfully completing this course may acquire all the foreign language credits required for the Recommended High School and Distinguished Achievement Programs. Further, students scoring 3 or better on the AP Spanish Language examination may earn one of the four advanced measures required for graduation under the Distinguished Achievement Program.

