

NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL IB LANGUAGE POLICY

The Nogales High School IB Diploma Programme is delivered in English. Students have Language B options in Spanish.

The language philosophy of Nogales High School is that students should preserve their mother tongues as much as possible while increasing proficiency in English, the NHS language of instruction. Additionally, future DP students begin study of Language B in grade 9 or in grade 8 if offered. All teachers—regardless of subject area—see themselves as language teachers and work to encourage the students’ mother tongues in the classroom and beyond.

When students are new to the school district, they (along with their parents and translators if needed) complete the district enrollment forms. If students/parents check the box on the form that indicates English is NOT their native language, then the district follows federal United States law and Arizona State guidelines to test the students in their language proficiency/achievement.

Nogales High School is the only district high school, and serves students who do not speak English as their native language. Nogales High School educates many students who have emerged from Mexico and other lands. Students who receive English Language Learner (ELL) services may be brand new speakers of English, or may be nearly fluent and only getting extra help as they learn the academic language of some of the most rigorous courses. Beginning students spend much of their day with one or two teachers while more proficient students take subject specific courses taught by experts in English language acquisition. Students are exited from the ELL program when they meet criteria on a language acquisition test (AZELLA). ***Other factors that are considered as students exit are their reading levels and academic achievements. The ELL coordinator and parents must all agree that exiting the program is in the best interest of the student.***

The school district offers a translation service for non-native English speaking parents and school personnel to communicate. The English Language Learner (ELL) coordinator is a tremendous asset in keeping parents informed about their students.

The Nogales High School ELL department chair works closely with the IB coordinator and NHS counselors in identifying students who might be interested in pursuing the IB diploma and in helping with their transition. The ELL department continues to offer support to students as needed throughout high school. As a school district with many non-native English speaking students, we take every opportunity through translator services, extracurricular activities/clubs and classroom activities to encourage the native tongue of students.