



Vegas Vista Academy Language Policy

Written and reviewed 2025-2026

Language of Instruction

At Vegas Vista Academy, English is the primary language of instruction across all areas of the curriculum. We believe that strong skills in the four domains of language acquisition: reading, writing, speaking, and listening, are essential for success across every subject.

With the exception of Spanish classes, all instruction is delivered in English, with the goal of ensuring every student develops advanced proficiency in all aspects of the language through our concept-driven, inquiry-based approach. Teachers create meaningful opportunities for students to use language in authentic contexts, including public speaking, collaborative projects, critical reading and discussion of diverse texts, creative and informational writing, and student-led presentations.

Our language instruction aligns with the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS), the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, and English Language Learner (ELL) standards to guarantee equitable access and rigorous learning for all students.

Spanish Language Instruction

At Vegas Vista Academy, English is the primary language of instruction across all areas of the curriculum. As part of our commitment to bilingual fluency and fostering intercultural understanding, students in kindergarten through fifth grade receive 45 minutes of Spanish language instruction daily. Instruction integrates cultural perspectives, vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and conversational skills. Many of our classroom teachers and staff are also Spanish speakers, providing students with authentic opportunities to continue developing their language skills beyond the Spanish classroom. Our goal is for all students to graduate with functional fluency in Spanish—able to speak, read, and write confidently, and to engage meaningfully with Spanish-speaking communities.

Daily Spanish instruction is immersive and interactive, incorporating authentic communication, literature, music, and cross-curricular connections. Research shows that sustained second language learning strengthens problem-solving abilities, enhances creativity, increases empathy, and fosters a deeper appreciation for diverse cultures.



Language Assessment

English language development is intentionally embedded and assessed across the curriculum to ensure that all students develop strong communication skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Assessment data is used to inform differentiated instruction, meet individual student needs, and align with grade-level expectations and developmental readiness.

Vegas Vista Academy uses a variety of school-based, district, and state assessments to monitor student progress. Students identified as English Learners (ELLs) receive targeted support, and their language proficiency is monitored using the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs assessment, as well as other nationally normed measures. WIDA results provide detailed information on students' abilities in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, which guides instructional planning, intervention strategies, and individualized goal setting.

Assessment practices emphasize growth over time, ensuring that language development is supported equitably for all learners.

For further information on assessment procedures, please refer to the **Vegas Vista Academy Assessment Policy**.

Home Language Support

At Vegas Vista Academy, we value and respect the variety of languages spoken by our students and their families. We view multilingualism as an asset that enriches learning, strengthens cultural identity, and deepens connections between school, home, and community. Students are encouraged to continue developing their home language alongside English, recognizing that strong skills in both contribute to academic growth and global citizenship.

To support this, our library offers a growing collection of books and media in multiple languages that reflect the cultures and linguistic backgrounds of our school community. Students also have access to digital tools on their school-issued devices to aid communication and learning. Families are invited to share their language and cultural traditions through classroom activities, school events, and community celebrations.

While English is the primary language for instruction, school communication is provided in both English and Spanish, ensuring accessibility for a large portion of our community. Whenever possible, we also strive to make important information available in other languages requested by families.



Access to IB Programmes

Vegas Vista Academy is committed to breaking down barriers to participation in the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP). We provide materials, resources, and support structures to ensure that the broadest possible range of students can fully engage with the programme. This includes language scaffolding, small-group instruction, and teacher professional learning focused on inclusive language practices.

Languages of the Wider Community

Our school is located in Las Vegas, a culturally and linguistically rich community. We honor and incorporate community languages into school events, family meetings, classroom discussions, and service-learning projects. Students are encouraged to use their language skills beyond the classroom, contributing to local initiatives and connecting with the wider community in meaningful ways.

Professional Development

Vegas Vista Academy is committed to providing educators with ongoing professional learning that equips them to meet the needs of our linguistically and culturally diverse students. Training opportunities focus on areas such as instructional strategies in the four domains of language acquisition, strategies for supporting multilingual learners, culturally responsive teaching practices, and the application of IB language policy in daily instruction.

Teachers also benefit from regular collaborative planning sessions, where they share effective practices, design language-rich learning experiences, and align instruction to support all learners. Our language policy is reviewed each year by the leadership team, IB coordinator, and teaching staff to ensure it remains current, reflective of best practices, and fully aligned with IB expectations.

Date of Most Recent Review: 11/21/2025

Reviewed By: VVA Leadership Team: