

A world map with various regions highlighted in shades of blue and dark blue. The highlighted areas include parts of North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. The text is overlaid on the map.

Elsie Whitlow Stokes

Community Freedom

Public Charter School

Language Policy

A large, light gray world map is visible in the background, showing the outlines of continents and countries. The map is centered on the Atlantic Ocean.

What is a Language Policy?

Language policy is an action statement.
It is a way of defining the “how” of our
philosophy around language.



Stokes School Mission Statement

The Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom Public Charter School prepares culturally diverse elementary school students in the District of Columbia to be leaders, scholars and responsible citizens who are committed to social justice.



Stokes School Mission Statement

Stokes teaches children to think, speak, read, write and learn in two languages: English and French or English and Spanish. With a dual focus on academic excellence and community service, the Stokes School accomplishes its mission by creating an environment of achievement, respect and non-violence.



Questions

Think for a minute, then turn to an elbow partner.

First, take 30 seconds to identify two questions about language that intrigue you and your partner.

Then, discuss those question for a minute each.

Finally, find another set of partners to share one observation from your and your partner's thinking with the group.



Stokes School View on Language

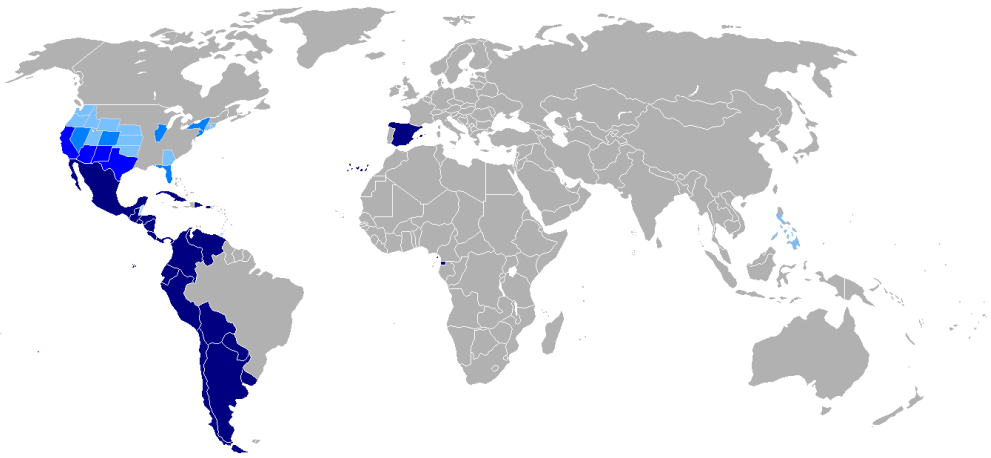
At Stokes, we believe that language is

- The primary way that people interact with each other
- How we learn about and share ideas with others
- At the basis of all aspects of the education process

A large, light gray world map is visible in the background, spanning the entire width of the slide. It shows the outlines of continents and countries.

Stokes School View on Language

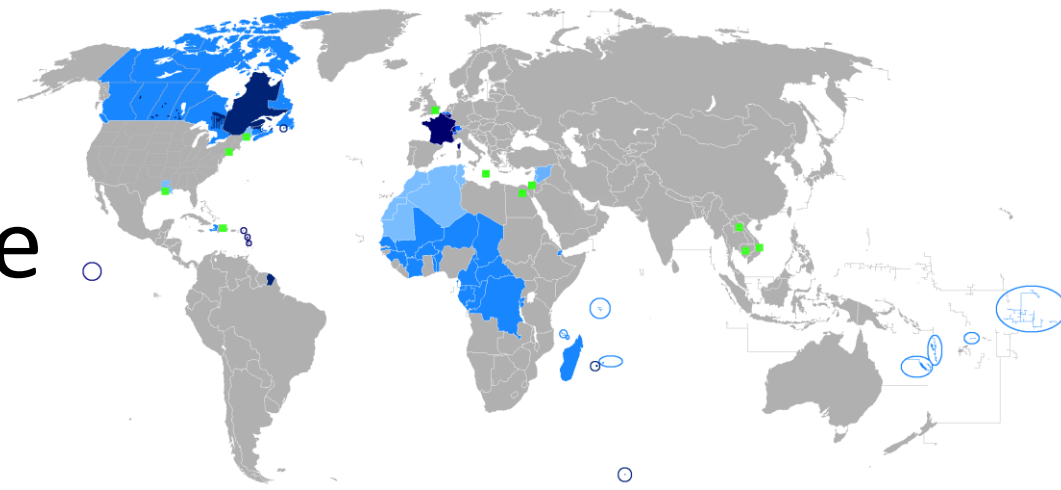
At Stokes, we believe in bilingual education because we hope to increase the amount of the world to which our scholars have direct access for exploration and for service.



Hispanophone



Anglophone



Francophone



Your View on Language

Take a moment to jot down

1. Three ideas you have about language and language instruction right now,
2. Two questions you have about language and language instruction, and
3. One analogy for what language or language instruction are like.



Stokes School Language Policy

The Stokes School Language Policy is a document that

- allows the school as an institution to look at itself and the children it serves, and
- to come to accord on how we will serve the children to deepen
 - their mastery of the idea of language, and
 - their mastery of the utility of language.



Stokes School Language Policy

Throughout the document, there is a consistent attempt to answer two questions:

- What are the language skills of the children we are serving?
- How will we continue to strengthen those skills?



Stokes School Language Policy

The immediate reason for having a policy is a requirement from the IBO. The reasoning of the requirement is sensible; given how fundamental language is to learning, some things have to be clearly stated and universally upheld.



Stokes School Language Policy

- Scholars matriculating through Stokes School are culturally diverse.
- Stokes School teaches children to think, speak, read, write and learn in two languages: English and French or English and Spanish.
- The Stokes School intends an environment of respect and of appreciation for culture.



Stokes School Language Policy

- The Stokes School dual-immersion model includes at least fifty percent of the scholars' school week in only French or only Spanish and the remainder in English.
- The Stokes School community of learners, reflective of its cultural diversity, is linguistically diverse .



Stokes School Language Policy

- Language is the major connecting element across the curriculum.
- All teachers are engaged in the community of learners.
- Parents are engaged in the community of learners.



Stokes School Language Policy

- Language and language proficiency are assets that benefit learners regardless of the particular language in which a scholar or their family is proficient.
- Mission and philosophy must guide; practice adapts to the needs of the community.



Stokes School Language Policy

The Stokes School focuses the efforts of all teachers as language teachers to create a community of learners that celebrates cultural diversity and human commonality. Stokes School encourages inquiry both into the many cultures of our own school community and many others from around our world by teaching scholars to think, speak, read, write, and learn in at least two of the world's most commonly used languages.



Stokes School Language Policy

Stoke School further encourages that inquiry by the active participation of families and others in the community of learners. Stokes School actively celebrates the diversity of the Francophone, Hispanophone and Anglophone world communities and also encourages the continued enrichment of other mother tongues in the school community because of the benefit of language proficiency, in itself, to learners.



Stokes School Language Policy

We support language learning for all students through

- Support for mother tongues
- Universal access to the Teacher's College Readers' and Writers' Workshops
- A growth-based grading system in Target Languages and a growth-based support system for ELL
- At least 50% of instructional time in the target language



Stokes School Language Policy

You can support language learning for all students through

- Labeling for mother tongues in the classroom
- Labeling in all your child's languages at home
- Using resources from the DC Public Library System
- Serving on the Language Policy Steering / Review committee



Your View on Language

Take a moment to jot down

1. Three ideas you have about language and language instruction right now,
2. Two questions you have about language and language instruction, and
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Your View on Language

Look at your earlier responses to this prompt and your responses now.

How do they connect to one another?

What other suggestions do you have about how the school and parents can support language learning?

Would you be willing to share these ideas and connections with our team at the school?



Stokes School Language Policy

The policy will soon be available on the school website.

Late stage drafts are available upon request.

Printed copies of the drafts are here for your perusal.



**Thank you so much
for coming today.**

