

Referendum and Middle School World Languages

In 2009-2010, a variety of world language courses were taught at the middle school level. Approximately 432 students were taught by 3.51 teachers. The courses were primarily in Spanish and French but the curriculum was not consistent across the Corporation. In 2010-2011, the cost cutting measures required us to eliminate the world languages program at the middle school level entirely.

After the referendum passed, we were able to return the World Language Program to the middle schools and to improve the level of instruction at the same time. This past year, Spanish I and French I were offered to 7th and 8th graders and the curriculum was the same as the Level I classes at the high school level. A total of 453 students were taught by 3.18 teachers. Students who met certain criteria were given the option to receive high school credit for a year of world language instruction.

Next school year, 2012-2013, students will be given the opportunity to take both level I and level II Spanish or French while in the middle schools. This past spring, 682 students signed up for the courses which will be taught by 4.34 teachers.

The referendum has permitted us to not only return world language instruction at the middle schools but to offer a higher level of instruction to a much greater number of middle school students. Those students have the opportunity to gain excellent knowledge and skills in the world languages and to gain one year's equivalent of high school credits before entering high school.