

# German — Goals and Rationale

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## Rationale

Acquiring a new language opens the door to a world of new experiences. As students study a new language, they develop an understanding and appreciation of other people, cultures, beliefs, and ways of life, while also developing a deeper understanding of their own culture and personal identity. They learn new ways to think, learn, and communicate with others, and gain a new perspective on their experiences and the world around them. The study of German rewards learners with these and other benefits.

Being able to communicate in German opens the door to unique educational, travel, business, and career opportunities throughout Europe and the world. German is spoken by over 100 million people, and is an official language of five European countries and the United Nations. It is the most widely spoken language in Europe and is the second most commonly used scientific language in the world. Learners who are proficient in German are able to explore and deepen their understanding of the cultural richness of German-speaking and other European countries and their important contributions to science, the arts, and human thought.

Acquiring German deepens learners' understanding of the important relationship between language and culture, and allows students to transcend cultural boundaries and biases. It fosters an appreciation of traditional and contemporary cultures and positive attitudes toward cultural diversity and commonality. As globalization increases, it is important that learners become aware that they are part of a rich cultural and linguistic diversity. Developing linguistic and intercultural competencies increases students' ability to understand and communicate effectively with people from around the world.

As learners gain proficiency in German, they develop many competencies essential to their continued success in life, including critical thinking, creative thinking, and communication skills. For example, learning an additional language is known to enhance students' learning and literacy in their first language, as well as contributing to their overall cognitive development. As they learn to communicate clearly and effectively in German, students gain transferable skills and processes that contribute to their proficiency as communicators in English.

## Goals

The BC German curriculum aims to support students' development as educated citizens through the achievement of the following goals. Students are expected to:

- use German as a form of self-expression and as a way of enhancing their personal development
- communicate with purpose and confidence in German
- explore a variety of authentic German-language texts
- appreciate the interconnectedness of language and culture

- appreciate the aesthetic dimension of the German language and German literature
- expand their understanding and appreciation of other cultures
- deepen their understanding of their first language and of their own cultural identity
- understand the educational, travel, and career opportunities that learning an additional language offers
- develop a lifelong appreciation of learning languages

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