

# Mandarin Chinese — Goals and Rationale

---

## 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 new perspectives on their experiences and the world around them. The study of Mandarin Chinese rewards learners with these and other benefits.

With a history of thousands of years, the Chinese language is one of the oldest continuous languages in the world. It is still the most widely spoken language among one-fifth of the world's population. In Canada, over one million people use Chinese languages, and the Chinese-speaking community is one of the fastest-growing communities in the country. Being able to communicate in more than one language opens the door to unique educational, travel, and career opportunities throughout Canada and the world. Learners who are proficient in Mandarin Chinese are able to explore and deepen their understanding of the richness and diversity of the global Chinese-speaking community.

Acquiring Mandarin Chinese deepens learners' understanding of the important relationship between language and culture, and allows students to transcend cultural boundaries and biases. 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 Mandarin Chinese, they develop many competencies essential to their continued success in life, including critical thinking, creative thinking, and communication skills. 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 Mandarin Chinese, students gain transferable skills and processes that contribute to their proficiency as communicators in English.

## Goals

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

- use Mandarin Chinese as a form of self-expression
- communicate with purpose and confidence in Mandarin Chinese
- explore a variety of Chinese-language texts from Chinese-speaking communities, regionally and globally
- appreciate the interconnectedness of language and culture

- 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

DRAFT