

# Punjabi — 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 Punjabi rewards students with many benefits.

Punjabi is spoken by millions of people worldwide. Being proficient in the Punjabi language equips students to actively interact with and participate (social and economically) in the global Punjabi-speaking community, expanding career opportunities. Students who are proficient in Punjabi are able to explore and deepen their understanding of the richness and diversity of the Punjabi language and culture.

Acquiring Punjabi deepens students' understanding of the important relationship between language and culture, and allows students to transcend cultural boundaries and biases. As the world becomes more globalized, it is important that students 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 students gain proficiency in Punjabi, 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 Punjabi, students gain transferable skills and processes that contribute to their proficiency as effective communicators of English.

## Goals

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

- use Punjabi as a form of self-expression
- communicate with purpose and confidence in Punjabi
- explore a variety of Punjabi-language texts from around the world
- 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
- appreciate that language is learned through relationships with self, family, and community
- develop a lifelong appreciation of learning languages

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