

# Spanish — 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 Spanish rewards students with these and other benefits.

Spanish is an important part of the Canadian identity, as there are more than 750,000 Spanish speakers in Canada. Being able to communicate in Spanish opens the door to unique educational, travel, and career opportunities throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Students who are proficient in Spanish are able to explore and deepen their understanding of the richness and diversity of the global Spanish-speaking community.

Acquiring Spanish deepens students' 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 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 Spanish, 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 Spanish, students gain transferable skills and processes that contribute to their proficiency as communicators in English.

## Goals

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

- use Spanish as a form of self-expression
- communicate with purpose and confidence in Spanish
- explore a variety of Spanish-language texts from around the Spanish-speaking world
- celebrate 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
- recognize the importance of memory, history, and story and their impacts on the Spanish language

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