

Appendix A

Definitions

Advanced Placement (AP)

An intensive program of college level curricula and examinations developed by the College Board that provides high school students with an opportunity to earn advanced placement, college credit, or both at participating colleges and universities across the country. The AP program offers students an opportunity to develop their academic strengths through rigorous curricula and challenging national examinations and exposes them to academic experiences usually recovered for college students.

Advanced Courses

A set of intensified high school courses that include Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Level III classes.

Aprenda 3

A test designed to measure the academic achievement of Spanish-speaking students in their native language. Reference norms are provided by U.S. Spanish-speaking students; additional reference norms come from students in Mexico and Puerto Rico.

Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)

A classroom observation tool developed at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education. It aims to provide a common lens and language focused on classroom interactions that encourage student learning. The CLASS tool organizes teacher-student interactions into three broad domains: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support.

Culturally Responsive Composite

A composite score from various CLASS components developed for APS to assess culturally responsive behaviors in the classroom.

Curriculum Frameworks

A guiding document that details of the specific knowledge and skills students must possess to meet the standards in a specific subject at a specific level.

Differentiation Composite

A composite score from various CLASS components developed for APS to assess effective instruction for gifted learners.

Differentiation in Instruction

An instructional approach that recognizes that all students must master a common body of knowledge and skills but each student learns differently and needs an approach most appropriate to his or her learning needs. Differentiation relates to content (what students learn), process (how students learn), and product (how students demonstrate what they've learned).

Diplomas of Spanish as a Foreign Language (DELE)

Diplomado del Español como Lengua Extranjera: The official accreditation of the degree of fluency of Spanish as a Second Language, issued and recognized by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport of Spain.

Distance Learning

An alternative delivery of instruction whereby students receive instruction over the Internet, via 2-way audio/video, or in a blended environment where approximately 80% of instruction is online and 20% is with a teacher in class.

Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES)

In APS, a proficiency-based program that teaches Spanish to students in grades K–5 for between 90–120 minutes/week.

Immersion

In APS, a program that immerses students in Spanish while they study academic content for at least one half of their academic schedule.

International Baccalaureate (IB)

A program for to help students develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world.

National Latin Exam

An exam given to Latin students at six levels that covers grammar, reading comprehension, Roman culture, history, geography and mythology and etymology.

National Online Early Language Learning Assessment (NOELLA)

The precursor to the STAMP 4Se, this test assesses elementary students' abilities in reading and listening in a foreign language.

Native Language

A distinction used to describe the language that a person acquires in earliest childhood.

Norm Referenced Assessment

A test that estimates the position of the tested individual in a pre-defined population regarding the trait being measured. This estimate is derived from the analysis of test scores and possibly other relevant data from a sample drawn from the population. Test results show whether the test taker performed better or worse than other test takers, but not whether the test taker knows either more or less information.

Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)

A framework for organizing instruction with the main goals of improving academic content skills and language skills.

STAMP 4S

A standards-based web-based test used to assess proficiency in the Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing skills of Level 3 World Language students and 8th grade Immersion students.

STAMP 4Se

A web-based test used to assess the Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing skills of 5th grade Immersion and 5th grade FLES students who have completed a K–5 sequence.

Standards of Learning (SOL)

The Virginia Board of Education's curriculum objectives that describe the commonwealth's expectations for student learning and achievement in grades K–12 by subject.

Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA)

A criterion-referenced assessment that measures speaking ability, including oral fluency, grammar, and vocabulary, and listening comprehension.

Transitional Spanish

A semester-long course available to 6th grade students who have participated in FLES or Immersion or can demonstrate Spanish proficiency at an appropriate level.