

Update: World Languages, Math and Science



April 2018 School Committee Report

National Findings

1. Language enrollments are down
2. Less than 5 percent of AP exams were in languages
3. 75 percent of students do not continue taking a language



Reason for the Decline



- Majority of students indicate they take a second language because they want to learn to speak it
- Yet, too often, classes focused on grammar, reading and writing

World Language: Need A More Balanced Approach

1. More emphasis on listening and speaking
2. Establish “proficiency targets” for each course
3. Place emphasis on performance not content coverage
4. See [last year’s report](#) to committee



Math: Opening A New Pathway to Freshman Honors

- Had been no path for students in “Grade 8 Math” to move into honors
- Algebra 1 is not always a challenging enough course
- Eliminated need for strong “Grade 8 Math” students to take summer test
- Created a path to Precalculus Honors which is increasingly becoming an admission requirement for many college programs

All Freshman Now Required to Take New Science Course

- This was the first year all freshman were required to take our new *Natural Science and Engineering: Theory in Practice*
- No longer have the option to take biology in 9th grade
- This increases rigor and expands options

Questions?