



School Administrative Unit 70

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To: Susan Finer
Deb Gillespie
Fr: Wayne Gersen
Dt: November 27, 2006
Re: **Elementary Foreign Language Issues**

On Monday, November 6, 2006, Bruce Williams, Rob Edson and I met with Allison Litten and Kristin Olmstead to discuss the possibility of offering both French and Spanish in the elementary schools starting at grade 4 and progressively adding a grade level per year. The purpose of offering both languages earlier than seventh grade was to address anecdotal concerns about the demographics of the Spanish and French classes at the Middle School and High School. Before beginning planning in earnest, I want to verify these concerns by collecting the following information:

- ❖ A comparison of the performance of the Spanish II students who complete Spanish I in the middle school versus the performance of Spanish II students who begin Spanish I at the high school.
- ❖ A comparison of high school Spanish and French enrollments over the past five years.
- ❖ A comparison of the percentage of special education students in middle school French and middle school Spanish.
- ❖ Any other data that indicates a qualitative difference between Spanish students and French students at the high school and middle school.

While this data is being collected, we will schedule a meeting of the foreign language teachers to discuss the idea of implementing both Spanish and French at the elementary level and how that would be phased-in over the coming years.

Cc: Bruce Williams
Rob Edson