

**Foreign Language Programs in Elementary Schools:  
FLES and FLEX**

**Center Moriches Schools  
Board of Education Meeting  
Curriculum Committee Presentation  
January 24th, 2018**

## **What is FLES?**

- FLES stands for Foreign Language in the Elementary School
- Programs range from basic exposure to a new language to total immersion in a new language
- Typically 5-15% of teaching time per week

## **What is FLEX?**

- FLEX stands for Foreign Language Exploration
- Programs focus on exposure to more than one language
- Typically 1-5% of teaching time per week

# Why FLES/FLEX?

## Is Earlier Always Better?

- Although people can learn languages at any age, some studies suggest that children who learn a language before adolescence are more likely than older learners to attain native-like pronunciation (Harley, 1986; Patkowski, 1990).
- A number of researchers have found that children have an innate ability to acquire the rules of any language, and that this ability diminishes by adulthood (Curtiss, 1995; Johnson and Newport, 1989).
- Of course, the more years devoted to learning a language and the more opportunities available to use it in everyday situations, the greater the proficiency achieved (Curtain, 1997).

Source: <http://www.cal.org/earlylang/benefits/marcos.html>

# Why FLES/FLEX?

## What the research indicates...

- Overall academic achievement
- Language development
- Motivation to continue with new languages
- Cultural Understanding
- Authentic Experiences
- Future Opportunities

## Feedback from Language Faculty...

- Students need to develop an interest in learning language
- Upper-level language courses require a stronger foundation in vocabulary, basic comprehension and culture

## Parent Perspective...

# **FLES/FLEX Programs on Long Island**

**The following is a summary of FLES/FLEX programs compiled by Dr. Margarita**

- Total Number of Early Language programs: 25
- 9 Suffolk; 16 Nassau = 25/127 Total districts = 20%
- K-5 Sequential FLES: 23
- K-5 Immersion (non-community language based): 1
- K-5 FLEX: 1

© Margarita 2015

# FLES/FLEX Program Designs

## Wide range of designs with varying costs:

- 5th Grade Exploratory Curriculum (FLEX) - .4 FTE
- K-5 Before and/or after school program (FLEX/FLES) -  
Hourly rate/stipend
- K-2 Six-day Cycle (FLES) -.5 FTE
- K-2 Push-in program (FLES) -.5 FTE
- 3-5 Six-day Cycle (FLES) - .5 FTE
- K-5 Six-day Cycle (FLES) - 1.0 FTE
- Partial Immersion/Dual Language (FLES) - 2.0 FTE

# **FLES/FLEX Program Rollout Options**

**Options on how to initially implement FLEX/FLES are as follows:**

- Option 1: Begin with moving Exploratory Program to 5th Grade in 2018-2019 school year
- Option 2: Begin with 2018-2019 Kindergarten class and add FLES section in consecutive following years
- Option 3: Begin with another grade level (i.e. 3rd Grade and add FLES section in the following years)
- Option 4: Begin with developing a before and after school FLES Program
- Option 5: Begin with K-5 FLES/FLEX in 2018-2019 school year

# Recommendations from the Curriculum Committee

**Goal:** To develop an interest in foreign languages for future language study, acquire an understanding and appreciation for other cultures and, ultimately, acquire proficiency in a second language

**Recommendation:** To implement a Foreign Language Program at Clayton Huey in the 2018-2019 school year



GRAZIE

Gratias tibi ago.

谢谢

Gracias

Teşekkür ederim

danke Efharistoomay

*Merci.*

