



FOREIGN LANGUAGE in the ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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An Overview of the Shepaug Valley Regional School District FLES Spanish Program

Presented to the
Region 12 Board of Education
December 2005

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Guiding Principles

- Begin preparation for 21st Century
- Build appreciation for & understanding of a foreign language & different cultures
- Integrated into regular classroom activities and routines
- Regular and brief interactions
- Support and reinforce existing elementary curriculum
- Collaboration with the classroom teacher
- Communication with parents
- Natural reinforcement of language development
- Everybody succeeds
- Learning a second language can and should be fun
- Recent Brain research shows that the “window of opportunity” for learning a second language is better achieved before the age of 10

Content Standards

■ Content Standards

Connecticut's Common Core of Learning for World Languages states:

“By the end of Grade 12, students will listen, speak, read and write proficiently in at least one language other than English, and will understand the culture(s) of that language”

Program Goals:

As a result of education in Grades K-12, Students will:

- ❑ Communicate in at least one language other than English
- ❑ Gain knowledge and understanding of other **cultures**
- ❑ Make **connections** with other areas of study and acquire information
- ❑ Understand the nature of language and cultures through **comparisons**
- ❑ Participate in multilingual **communities** within a variety of contexts

Program Focus

- Establish a foundation for later learning
- Emphasize oral language
- Recognize basic Spanish words and phrases
- Develop basic spoken vocabulary (related to everyday experiences in the classroom and at home)
- Understand and use simple phrases
- Develop awareness and appreciation of other cultures
- Incorporation of literacy skills (reading and writing)
- Novice level of proficiency

Region 12's FLES Program

- **Sequential FLES** (Foreign Language in the Elementary School) **K-5 Program**
- **Sessions are between 75-90 minutes a week**
- **Content Based** (integrate foreign language with other subjects of the elementary curriculum)
- **Two teachers service all three elementary schools**

Topics

- Greetings
- Classroom (commands)
- School Activities
- Numbers
- Colors
- Family
- Body Parts
- Clothing
- Days of the Week
- Months
- Seasons
- Weather
- Food
- Animals
- Classroom Themes

All integrated into the regular classroom lessons and routines

Example: Colors

Objective: Students will be able to recognize and use the Spanish name for up to 10 basic colors.

Structure:

- rojo
- azul
- blanco
- negro
- verde
- amarillo
- rosado
- anaranjado
- morado
- pardo
- ¿De que color es?
- Es...
- ¿Quien tiene?

Strategies & Materials:

- Identify color and colored objects
- TPR
- Personalized questions (e.g., clothing)
- Art Masterworks
- Bag of objects
- Link with food, clothing, animals, etc.
- Picture books (e.g., “Clifford,” “Is it red? Is it yellow? Is it blue?” “El Autobus Escolor”)
- Games

Integration:

- LA - vocabulary
- Math - patterns
- Art - identify colors
- Themes - introduce colors

Culture:

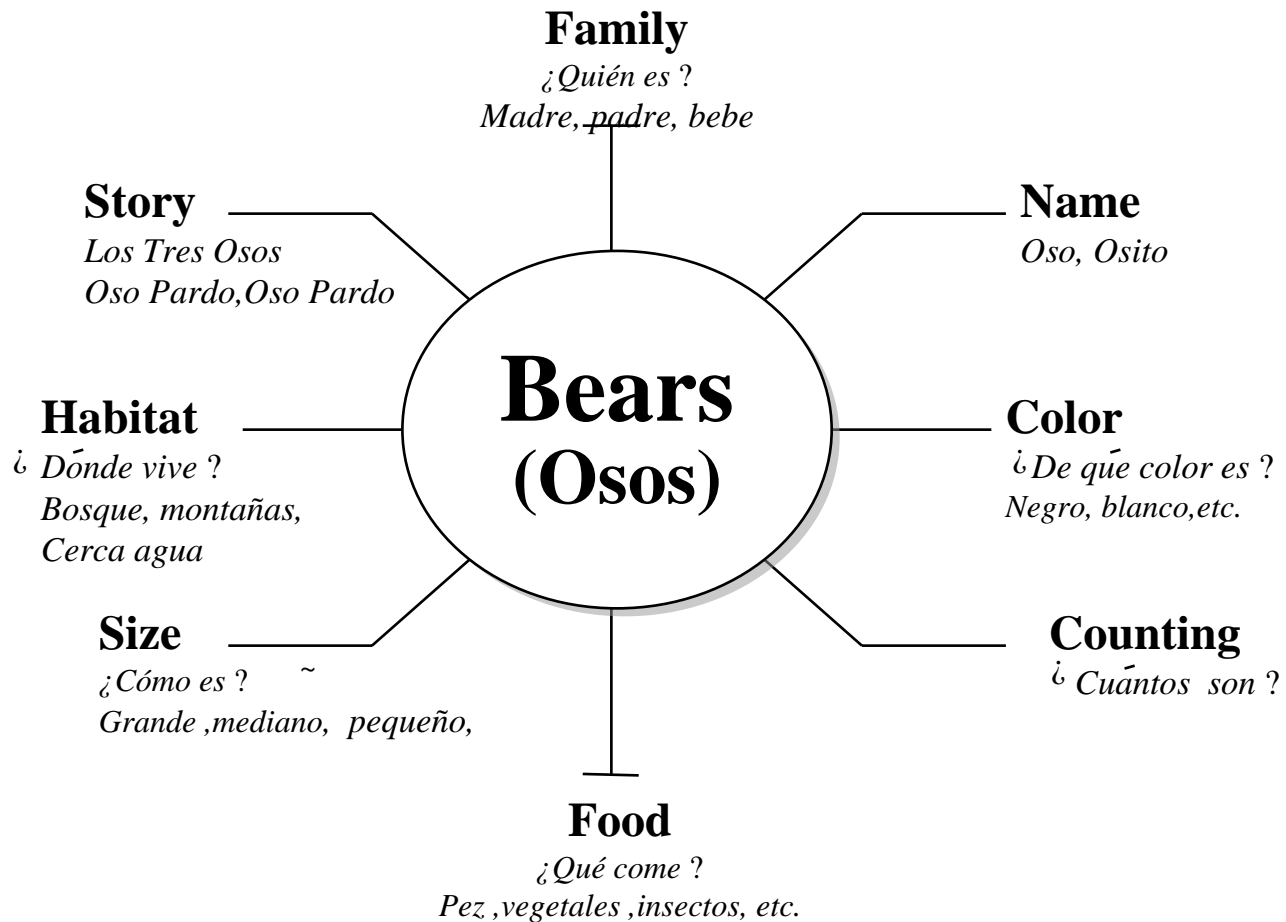
- Spanish art masterpieces
- Flags of Mexico, Spain, etc.

Integration

- Natural support for classroom activities and curriculum
- Follow the students - based on their routine
- Incorporate Spanish into classroom themes
- Integrate words, phrases and culture
 - regular lessons
 - “specials” (art, music, physical education)
- Assist teachers and support staff in their efforts to learn and use Spanish

Example of Integration

Classroom Theme: Bears



Methods

- Must be age-appropriate
- Use of:
 - puppets
 - songs
 - games
 - stories and poems
 - pictures and objects
- Questions and brief interactions
- Certificates and stickers
- Reinforcement, recognition and praise

Assessment

Assessment Formal & Informal

Formal

Achievement: 3-5

- Measure receptive abilities in listening, numbers, vocabulary
- Written and oral skills

Achievement: K-2

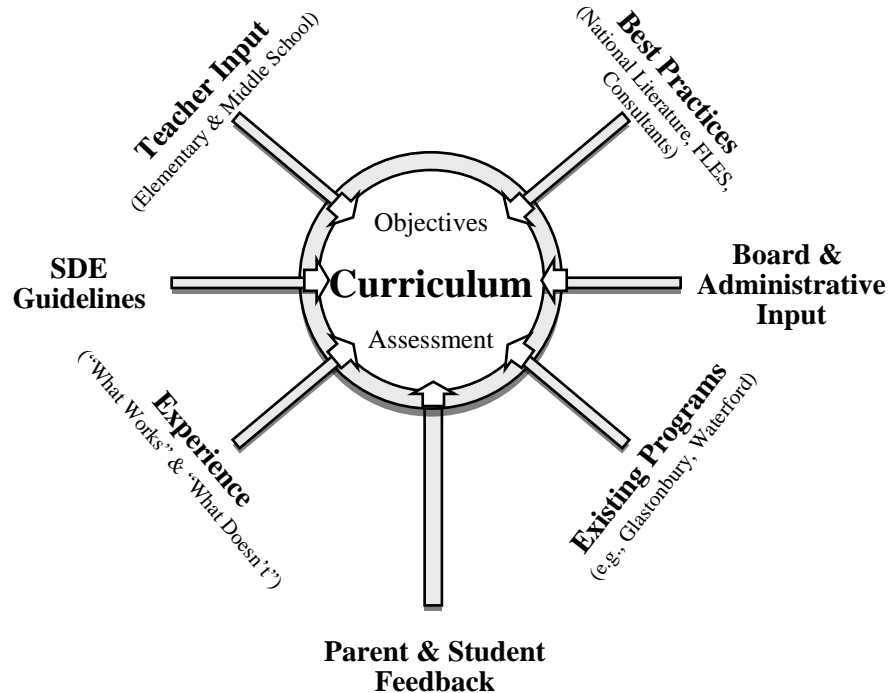
- Measure receptive and oral skills

Informal

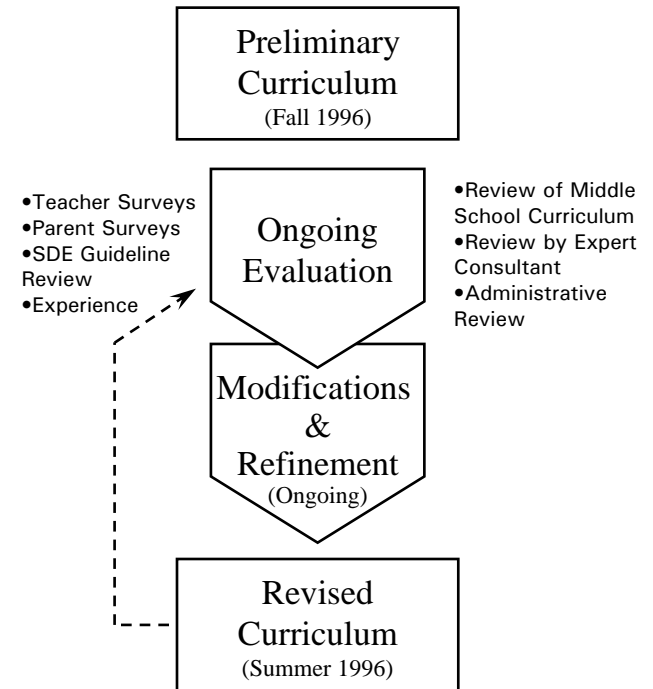
- pairing activities
- surveying
- interviewing
- checklists
- board games
- card games (e.g. go fish)
- reciting poems / rhymes
- singing songs

Development & Evolution of the Elementary Spanish Curriculum

Factors Influencing Development



Process of Development



REGION 12 ELEMENTARY SPANISH PROGRAM FAMILY SURVEY

Major Themes from the 2005 Survey

- **Highest satisfaction in early grades**
- **Lowest ratings on:**
 - Receive enough information
 - Use Spanish at home
 - Talk about Spanish at home
- **Highest ratings on:**
 - In favor of foreign language
 - Will enhance progress in other subjects
 - Child makes positive comments about Spanish
 - Child likes Spanish

Shepaug Valley School District
Elementary Foreign Language Program B R W

Family Survey

re: the Elementary Spanish Program

Dear Parents:

We are interested in receiving some feedback to help us better meet the needs of the students and their parents. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your feedback, ideas and recommendations will help us make improvements to the program.
YOUR OPINION IS VERY IMPORTANT. All responses are completely anonymous.

Please take a few minutes today to complete the survey. When you have finished, please put it in the attached envelope and send it back to school with your child. We would appreciate receiving all surveys by the end of the week.

If you have any questions about the program please feel free to call us. We'll get back to you right away.

Thank you for your assistance.

*Ginny Staugalis
Mary Rose Granka*

Rating Scale

SA	A	D	SD	NA
Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Answer/ Not Applicable

Section I.

After reading each of the following statements, please circle the one response that best represents your opinion about that statement. Try to provide a response for every statement. The abbreviated coding is shown to the right and includes: SA = you strongly agree with the statement, A = you agree with the statement, D = you disagree with the statement, SD = you strongly disagree with the statement and NA = you have no answer. Only use NA when you absolutely do not have any opinion or the statement is not applicable to your child.

Circle one rating for each statement

SA	A	D	SD	NA	1. My child talks at home about Spanish class.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	2. My child's comments are positive about learning Spanish.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	3. My child feels successful in Spanish class.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	4. My child likes Spanish.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	5. My child is benefiting from the Spanish program.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	6. I am receiving enough information about the Spanish program at our elementary school.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	7. My child uses Spanish words at home.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	8. I am in favor of teaching a foreign language to children.
SA	A	D	SD	NA	9. I feel that studying a foreign language will enhance my child's progress in other subject areas.

Please turn the page over and complete page 2

Survey distributed in November 2005
193 parents responded

FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS

2005

2005 Family Survey Average Ratings by Survey Statement All R12 Elementary Schools Combined

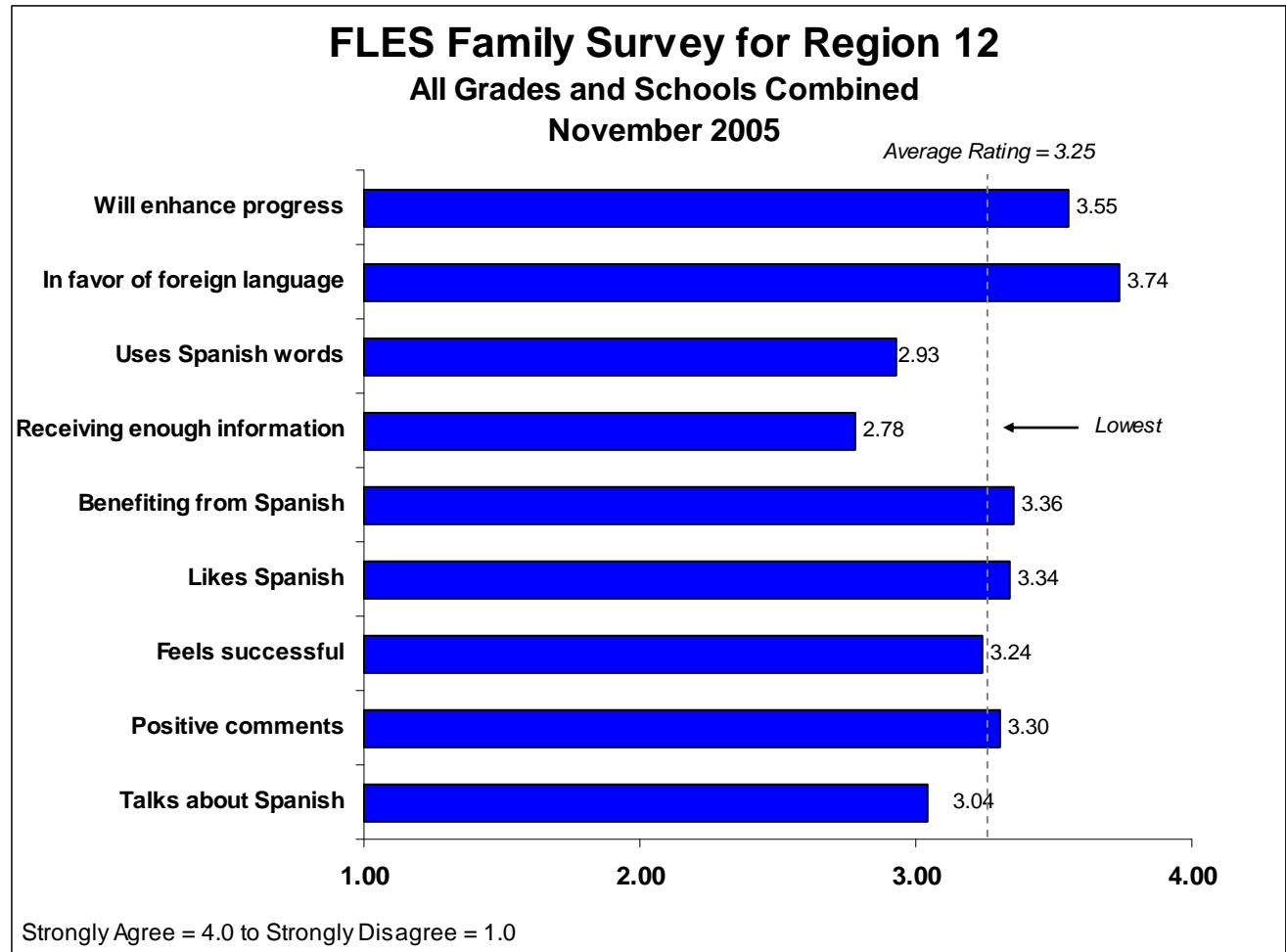
Survey Statement	GRADE						Average All Grades
	K	1	2	3	4	5	
<i>Talks about Spanish</i>	3.56	3.34	2.89	3.03	2.61	2.82	3.04
<i>Positive comments</i>	3.58	3.44	3.28	3.18	3.23	3.11	3.30
<i>Feels successful</i>	3.55	3.42	3.14	3.23	3.15	2.96	3.24
<i>Likes Spanish</i>	3.55	3.45	3.32	3.45	3.23	3.04	3.34
<i>Benefiting from Spanish</i>	3.58	3.46	3.11	3.43	3.26	3.30	3.36
<i>Receiving enough information</i>	3.03	2.64	2.81	2.78	2.82	2.59	2.78
<i>Uses Spanish words</i>	3.56	3.21	2.92	2.82	2.46	2.61	2.93
<i>In favor of foreign language</i>	3.79	3.82	3.56	3.84	3.65	3.79	3.74
<i>Will enhance progress</i>	3.56	3.62	3.53	3.66	3.45	3.50	3.55
Average Rating by Grade	3.53	3.38	3.17	3.27	3.10	3.08	3.25

No. Responses

193

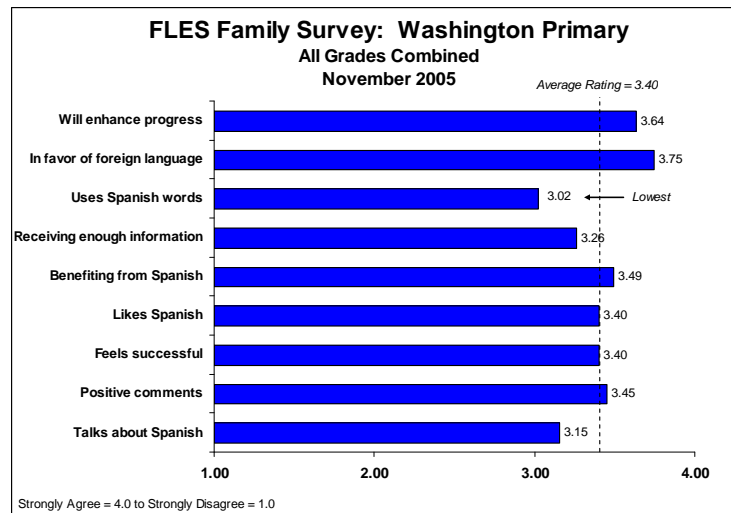
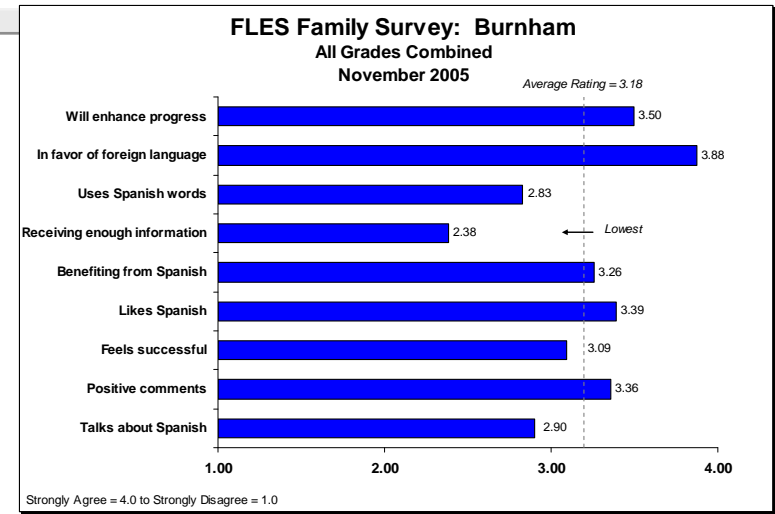
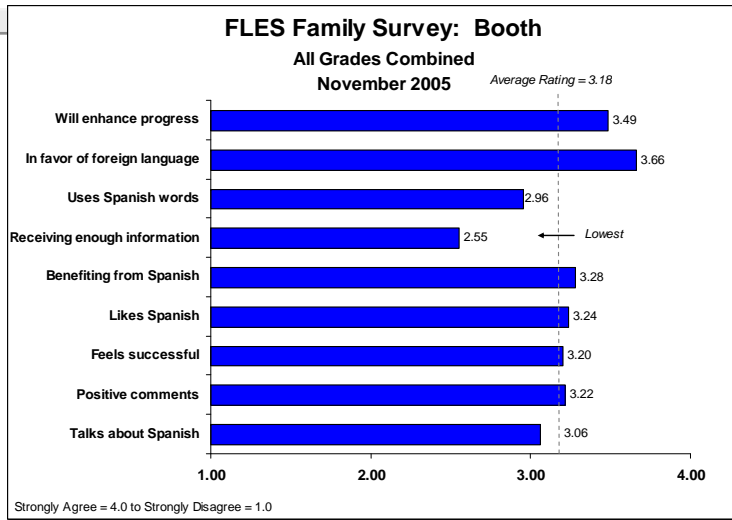
FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS

Across All Schools



FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS

By School



Improvement Targets

Suggested by the Family Survey Results

- Expand methods for sharing information with families
- Provide materials to encourage use of Spanish at home
 - Student focus
 - Family focus

A Few Examples

3rd Grade
RESTAURANT SKIT
Spanish Program

**5th Grade
Autobiography
Spanish Program
Washington Primary**

**5th Grade
Autobiography
Spanish Program
Booth Free School**

Learning Spanish can be fun!

Diverse array of interesting activities that provide opportunities for student participation

Shepaug Valley Regional School District Elementary Foreign Language Program

