



## World Languages



Anchorage School District

### ASD Language Immersion Program Completion Cord Requirements

In order for students to receive the ASD red and white immersion cord, they must meet the following requirements:

- Students have been enrolled in the immersion program, beginning in the elementary school and have continued each consecutive year, in an uninterrupted sequence, through the middle and high school.
- Students are enrolled in an ASD target language course through second semester of their senior year and meet the graduation requirements of the Anchorage School District.
- Students may be absent from the program for one semester due to medical needs, family emergency, or participation in an exchange program. (A one-year absence, including senior year, is allowed for students in a year-long exchange program.)
- Please see the reverse side of this flier for frequently asked questions and answers.



**Anchorage School District**  
Educating All Students for Success in Life

## World Languages Program

The Anchorage School District's language immersion programs provide an opportunity for students to have an "early start" in the study of another language and culture over a long, extended and uninterrupted sequence. This long-term program commitment, beginning at the elementary school, and continuing through middle and high school is an accomplishment worthy of special recognition.

The Anchorage School District awards the language immersion program students a red and white "Immersion Completion Cord." These are presented to students in an immersion program completion ceremony prior to the high school graduation ceremony.

Other immersion program "school-specific" recognitions: In addition to the ASD red and white Immersion Completion Cord, immersion program school staff and parents congratulate immersion students with gifts. For example, in 2004, Chugiak High School awarded medallions and Dimond High School awarded Japanese "inkan" (name stamps). Both Chugiak and Dimond immersion program teachers also presented students with certificates of accomplishment. Criteria for these recognitions are established at the individual high schools.

### ASD Language Immersion Program Schools

#### Spanish:

Chugiak Elementary - Mirror Lake Middle School – Chugiak High School

#### Spanish/English two-way:

Government Hill Elementary – Romig Middle School – West High School

#### Japanese:

Sand Lake Elementary – Mears Middle School – Dimond High School

#### Russian:

Turnagain Elementary – Romig Middle School – West High School

For more information, please contact ASD World Languages, 742-4848.

## **FAQ's about the Anchorage School District Immersion Program Completion Cord**

### ***What is an Immersion Program Completion Cord?***

An Immersion Program Completion Cord is a red and white cord presented at a high school immersion program Completion Ceremony. In 2000, the Anchorage School District School Board gave approval for students of Anchorage's K-12 immersion programs to wear the red and white cords at the high school graduation exercises. Language immersion program students and National Honor Society students are the only two groups permitted to wear special graduation adornment in the Anchorage School District graduation ceremonies. This special distinction recognizes students who have completed a language immersion program, in an uninterrupted sequence, beginning in elementary school. While the cord recognizes students' completion of a long-term commitment to an ASD language immersion program, it is an outward symbol of all the gifts that come with understanding another language, culture, and people.

### ***What happens if a student leaves an immersion program and rejoins the program at a later date?***

Students may be absent from the program for one semester due to a family emergency, medical needs, or participation in an exchange program. A one-year absence is allowed for students in a yearlong exchange program. Students who are absent for more than one semester may participate in their high school program's completion ceremony and be awarded "certificates of participation" and/or other school awards.

### ***Do you need a certain GPA to receive the Immersion Program Completion Cord?***

No. The Immersion Program Completion Cord recognizes students' long-term commitment to an ASD language immersion program. Making the commitment to continue in a program from elementary to middle and then on to high school is not always an easy one. Students often make decisions about changing schools and/or elective courses. The Immersion Program Completion Cord recognizes language immersion students for their pursuit of this long-term goal. Much like finishing a marathon, regardless of whether they cross the finish line sprinting or walking, all students are recognized for the achievement of program completion.

### ***Can a student receive the Immersion Program Completion Cord for taking university-level language courses, or other courses about the target culture, in place of the ASD target language courses?***

The ASD language immersion program teachers and administrators whole-heartedly encourage any experiences that add to students' fluency, knowledge and appreciation of language study. However, to qualify for the ASD Immersion Program Completion Cord, students must be enrolled in the Anchorage School District World Languages Program.

### ***Can native-speakers receive the Immersion Program Completion Cord if they enter an immersion program in middle or high school?***

Native language speakers are welcome and encouraged to enroll in the ASD language immersion programs. However, in order to receive an Immersion Program Completion Cord, students must enter the program in an immersion elementary school class and continue, in an uninterrupted sequence, through high school. Native-speakers, who enroll at the middle or high school, may participate in their high school program's completion ceremony and be awarded "certificates of accomplishment" and/or other school awards.

### ***Why are students who study abroad in semester or yearlong exchange programs allowed to receive the Immersion Program Completion Cord?***

Spending a significant period of time abroad as a high school student is a unique opportunity. Because striving to become responsible citizens of the world is an everyday goal in our language immersion classrooms, we encourage students to learn first-hand about the world by studying abroad for extensive stays. Thus, students who are absent due to study abroad in formal semester-long or yearlong exchange programs will be recognized with the Immersion Program Completion Cord at graduation.