



World Languages



Anchorage School District

ASD World Languages Immersion Program Schools

Chinese

Scenic Park Elementary

Japanese

Sand Lake Elementary

Mears Middle School

Dimond High School

Russian

Turnagain Elementary

Romig Middle School

West High School

Spanish

Chugiak Elementary

Mirror Lake Middle School

Chugiak High School

Spanish/English Two-way

Government Hill Elementary

Romig Middle School

West High School



Anchorage School District
Educating All Students for Success in Life

Anchorage School District Language Immersion Program Completion Cord

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

The Anchorage School District high schools with language immersion programs recognize immersion students who complete the K-12 uninterrupted sequence during an end-of-year formal "immersion program completion ceremony." Students present speeches in the target language, reflect upon their immersion experiences, and receive a Certificate of Accomplishment and recognition from their immersion program teachers, administrators, and parents. Students who enter an ASD language immersion program at any time during elementary school and continue in the program in an uninterrupted sequence through high school also receive an ASD Language Immersion Program Completion Cord, presented by the superintendent or designee, to be worn at their respective graduation ceremonies.

Students who enter an ASD immersion program during middle school and continue in the program in an uninterrupted sequence through high school also attend the completion ceremony and receive a Certificate of Accomplishment.

In order to be eligible to receive the district's "Language Immersion Program Completion Graduation Cord" an immersion student must meet the following requirements:

- Student enrolled in an ASD language immersion elementary school program and continued in the immersion program each consecutive year in an uninterrupted sequence at the designated middle and high school immersion program schools.*
- Student successfully completed all immersion coursework in grades 9-12.
- Student fulfilled the graduation requirements of the Anchorage School District.

**Student may be absent from the program for one year due to medical needs, family emergency, or participation in an exchange program.*

Please refer to the reverse side for frequently asked questions and answers.

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

What is the Immersion Program Completion Cord?

The Immersion Program Completion Cord is a 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 cords at the high school graduation exercises. 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' successful 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 up to one year for a family emergency, medical needs, or participation in an exchange program. Students who are absent for more than one year may participate in their high school program's completion ceremony and will be awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment. Exceptions may be granted due to extenuating circumstances and should be referred to the Director of World Languages for a final decision.

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. This said, we do expect all students to complete their immersion coursework successfully. Students who receive a failing grade on their transcript in an immersion class will be placed on academic probation, which could result in not being awarded the Completion Cord.

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?

No. 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 Immersion Program and follow the prescribed sequence of coursework.

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 school level and who continue in an uninterrupted sequence through high school may participate in their high school program's completion ceremony and be awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment.

Exceptions may be granted due to extenuating circumstances and should be referred to the building principal and the Director of World Languages for a final decision.

***For questions or further information please contact Brandon Locke, Director of World Languages,
at Locke_Brandon@asdk12.org or 907-742-4848.***

Note: The revisions indicated in this document begin with seventh-grade students in the 2014-2015 school year (the graduating class of 2020).