

## The FLES Model

The FLES model in the Timberlane Regional School District will be based on the National Standards for Foreign Languages (supporting the five areas of communication, connections, comparisons, communities and cultures) and the Timberlane Regional School District curriculum. The model will develop students' language proficiency by a content-connected and standards based program that uses an interdisciplinary approach to deliver both language and content rich instruction through communication. The program will have twenty minutes of instruction four or five times per week. The model is based on research from The American Council of the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL). The research shows that students are not only able to learn the language, but are also highly engaged in learning content through the language. Spanish will be used by the teacher and students for a minimum of 90% of the FLES instruction time (unless safety concerns require the teacher to speak English).



# SPANISH

The benefits (of learning a foreign language) to society are many. Americans fluent in other languages improve global communication, enhance our competitiveness abroad, and maintain our political and security interests. (U.S. General Accounting Office, 2002)



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Timberlane  
Regional School  
District

Foreign Language in  
Elementary School  
(FLES)



Language: Spanish

Grade Level: Kindergarten

2018-2019

# ABOUT FLES

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## Why Spanish?

- Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world after Mandarin Chinese.
- Spanish is an official language of the United Nations, European Union and other international organizations.
- Because of its Latin roots, nearly identical alphabet and pronunciation rules, Spanish is one of the easiest languages for English speakers.
- Spanish is by far the most widely taught second language in the country, and with over 50 million total speakers, the United States is now the second largest Spanish speaking country in the world after Mexico.
- Spanish is becoming more and more important with regard to business. Learning Spanish will enable better communication with employees and coworkers.

## What is FLES?

FLES is an acronym for Foreign Language in Elementary School. It is an approach to learning that allows students to develop basic communicative skills in a language while reinforcing and enriching content in other disciplines.

FLES is delivered in an encouraging learning environment where the language directly relates to the students, reflecting their needs, interests and everyday life.

*¡Bienvenido!*

## Why FLES?

The American Council of Teaching of a Foreign Language (ACTFL) offers the latest research on foreign language acquisition. ACTFL attests that the FLES model:

- Provides students with language learning opportunities.
- Has a powerful effect on a child's mental development and cognitive skills.
- Supports academic achievement in other disciplines.
- Enhances reading development in both English and Spanish.
- Positively promotes global awareness and cross-culture understanding.
- Improves students' understanding of their own language.
- Gives students an advantage in language requirements for college.
- Increases employment opportunities in numerous careers and fields worldwide.