

**LAKE BLUFF  
SCHOOLS**  
**DISTRICT 65**

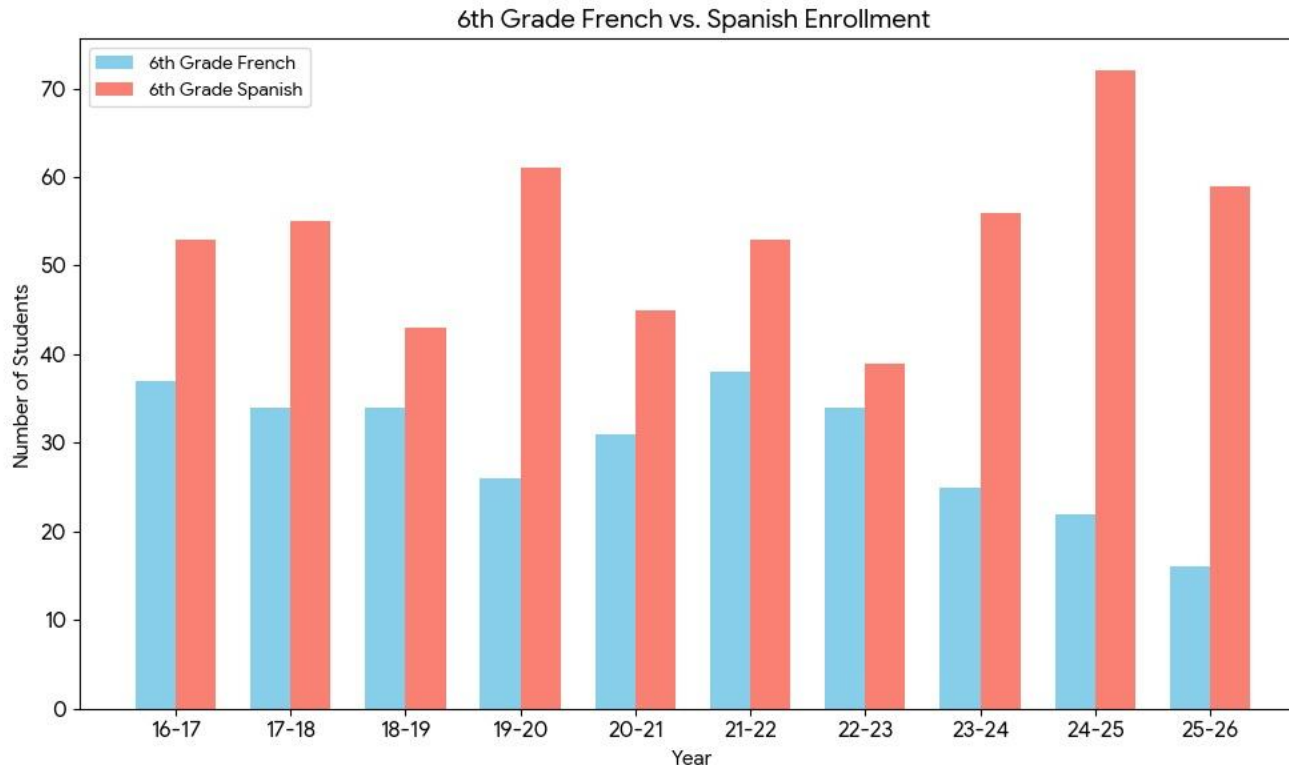
# **LBMS World Language Update**

*January 2026*

# Overview

- Review LBMS Spanish and French enrollment data
- Share trends and forecasts for future enrollment
- Impact of impending retirement
- Recommendation moving forward
- Pros and Cons

# Enrollment History

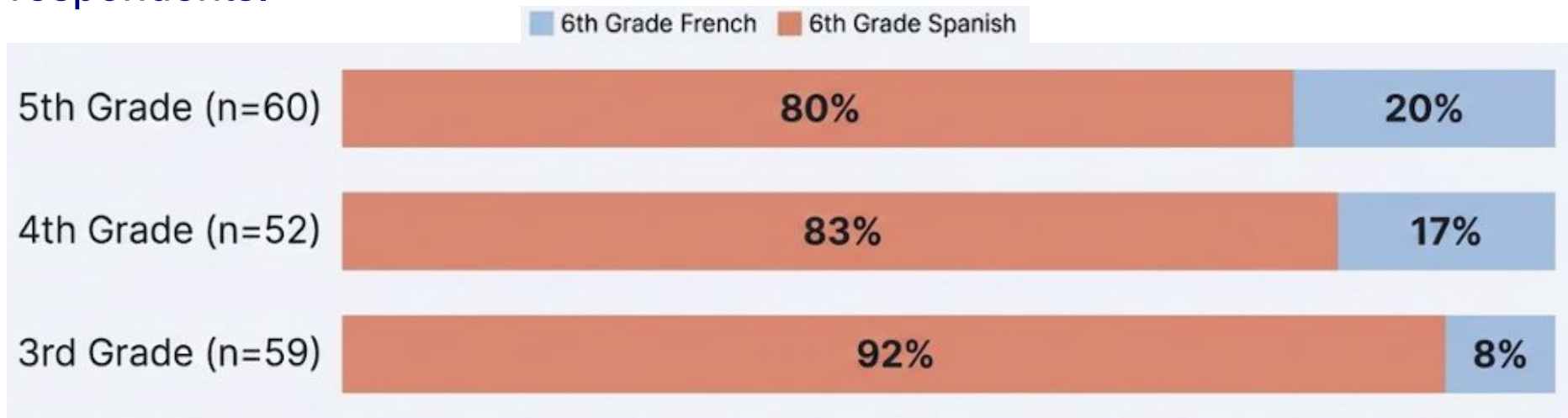


6th Grade enrollment from 2016-17 to 2025-26 shows consistently higher Spanish enrollment.

French enrollment has entered a consistent decline in the past four years.

# Future Enrollment

In November and December of this year, parents of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students were surveyed and asked to provide their current preference for their student's world language choice at LBMS. We received a total of 171 respondents.

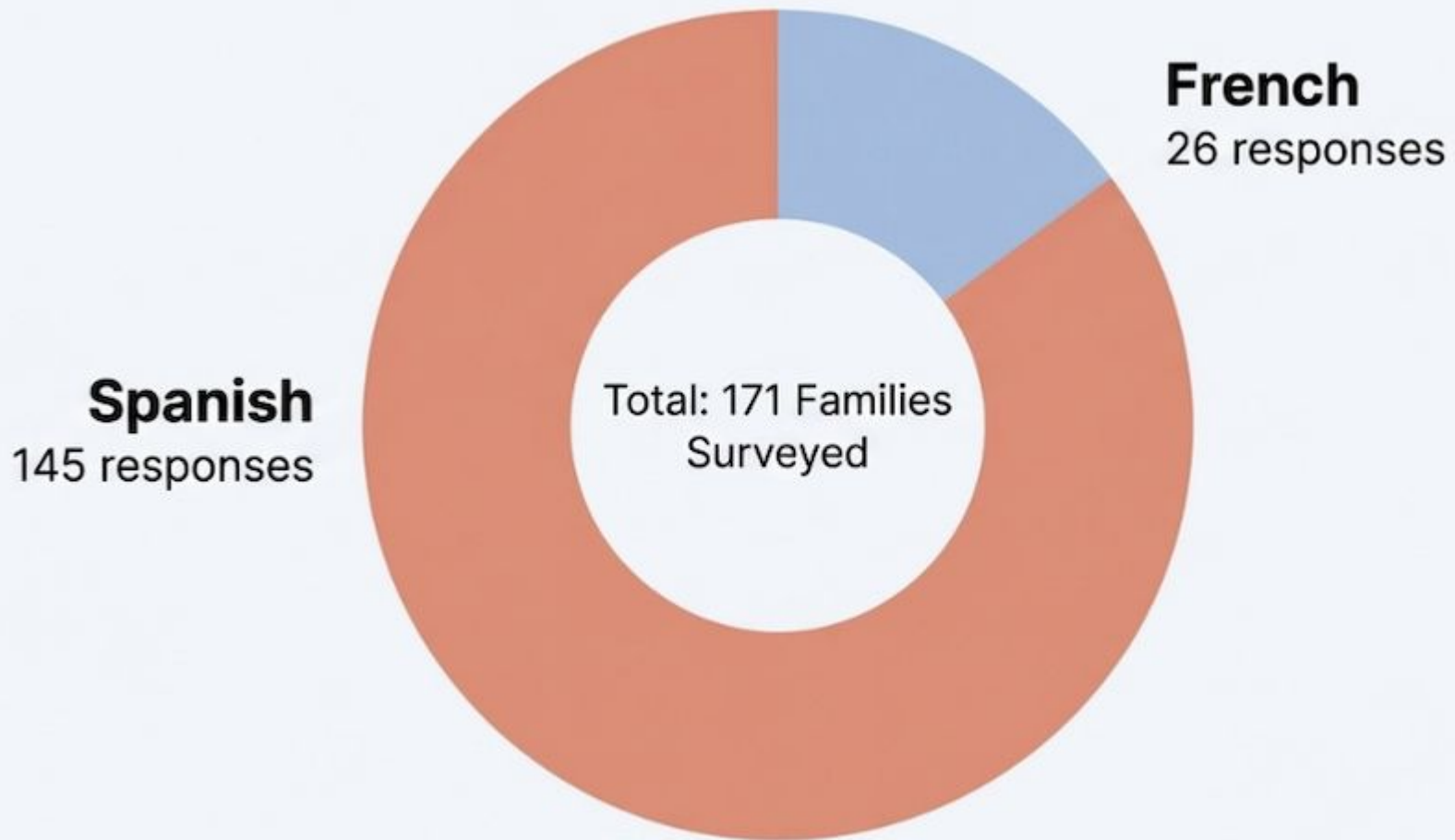


## Current Enrollment

| 5th Grade | 4th Grade | 3th Grade |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 102       | 103       | 90        |

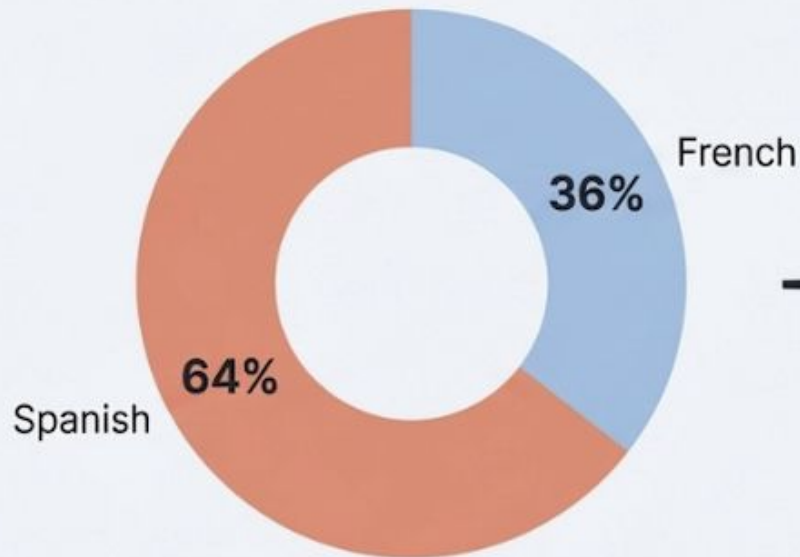
# Future Enrollment

85% of incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th indicated a preference of Spanish while 15% indicated French as a preference.



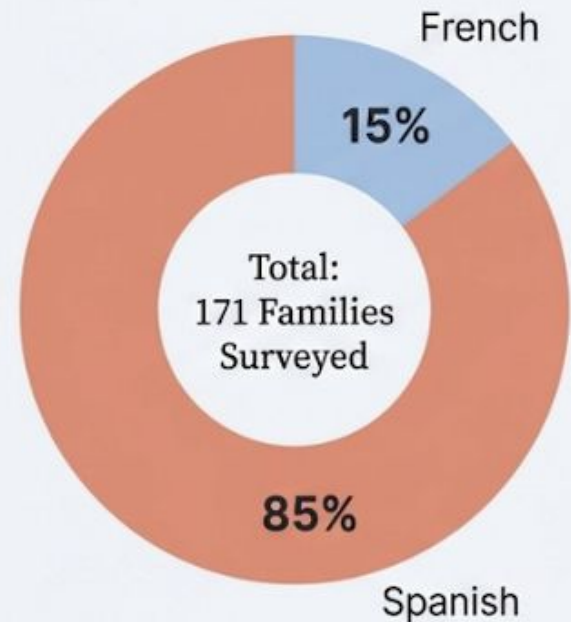
# Enrollment Trend

**The Past: 10-Year Enrollment Average**



Based on 6th Grade enrollment 2016-2026.

**The Future: Pipeline Preference**



Based on survey of current 3rd-5th graders.

# Considerations

- Shift in Enrollment
  - Over the last decade, French enrollment has shifted from a high of 38 students (36%) in 2021-22 to a low of 16 students (18%) in 2025-26
  - In contrast, we anticipate the highest Spanish enrollment this coming year reaching 80% of incoming 6th graders in 2026-27
- Upcoming Retirement (2028)
- Programmatic Impact at LFHS
- Staffing Costs (neutral)
- Impact on Master Schedule

# Recommendation

- Begin the process to gradually eliminate French offerings at LBMS during the 2025-26 school year.
- French would no longer be offered to incoming 6th grade students.
- Students currently enrolled in French will remain in French throughout the rest of Middle School.

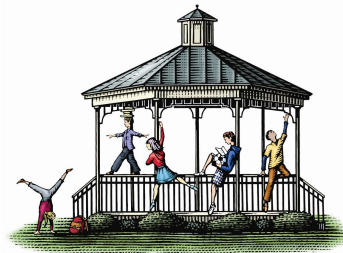
# Pros vs. Cons

## Pros:

- No impact on students currently enrolled in French
- Reduces constraints within master schedule
- Allows for more balanced class sizes
- With an impending retirement there is no need for RIF
- Addresses the significant reduction in French enrollment

## Cons:

- Fewer world language options available to students
- LFHS will offer French 1 for students interested in taking French as long as they can fill a section (15 or more).



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**Questions?**

