

World Language Update

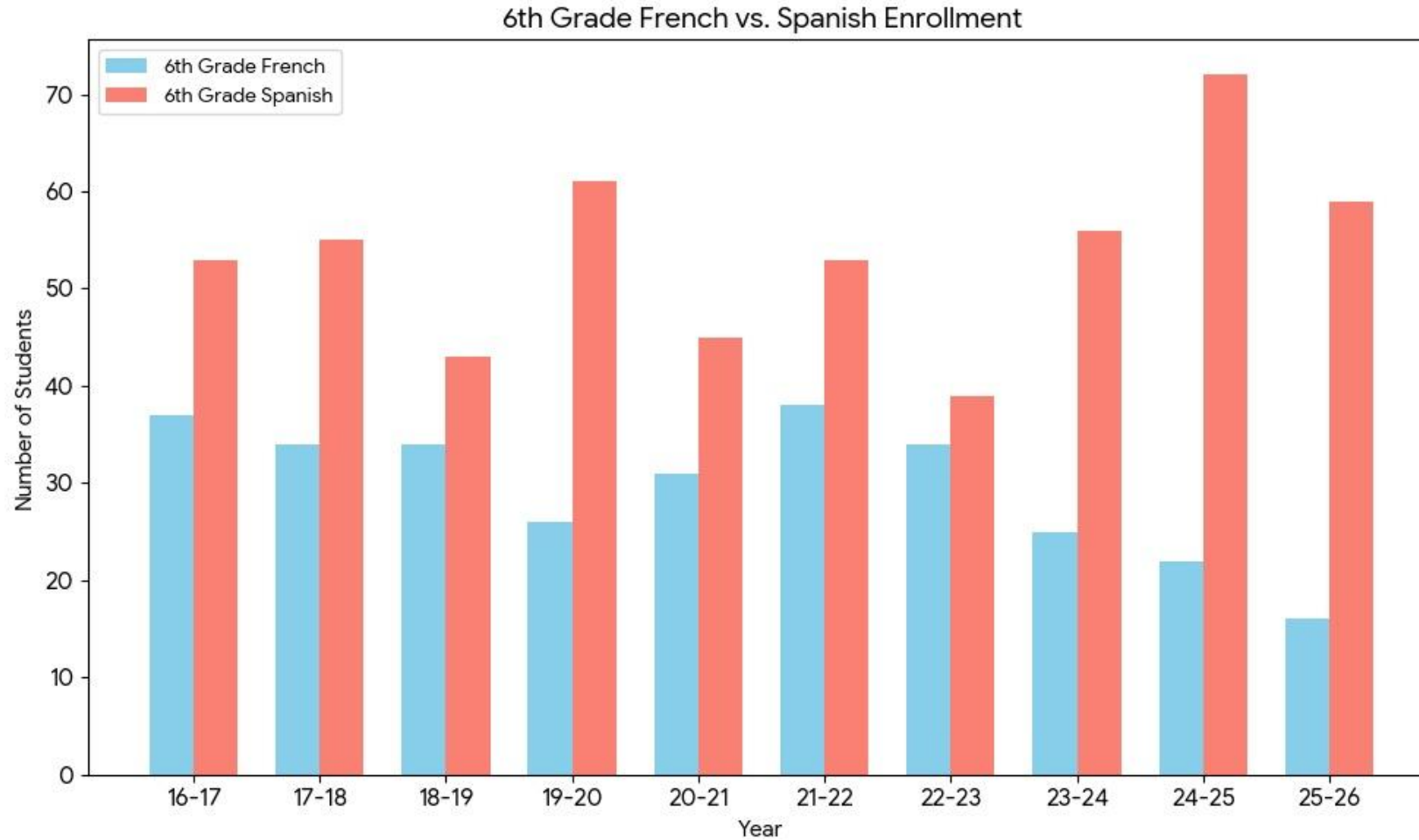
LAKE BLUFF MIDDLE SCHOOL | MAY 2026



Current Enrollment Landscape

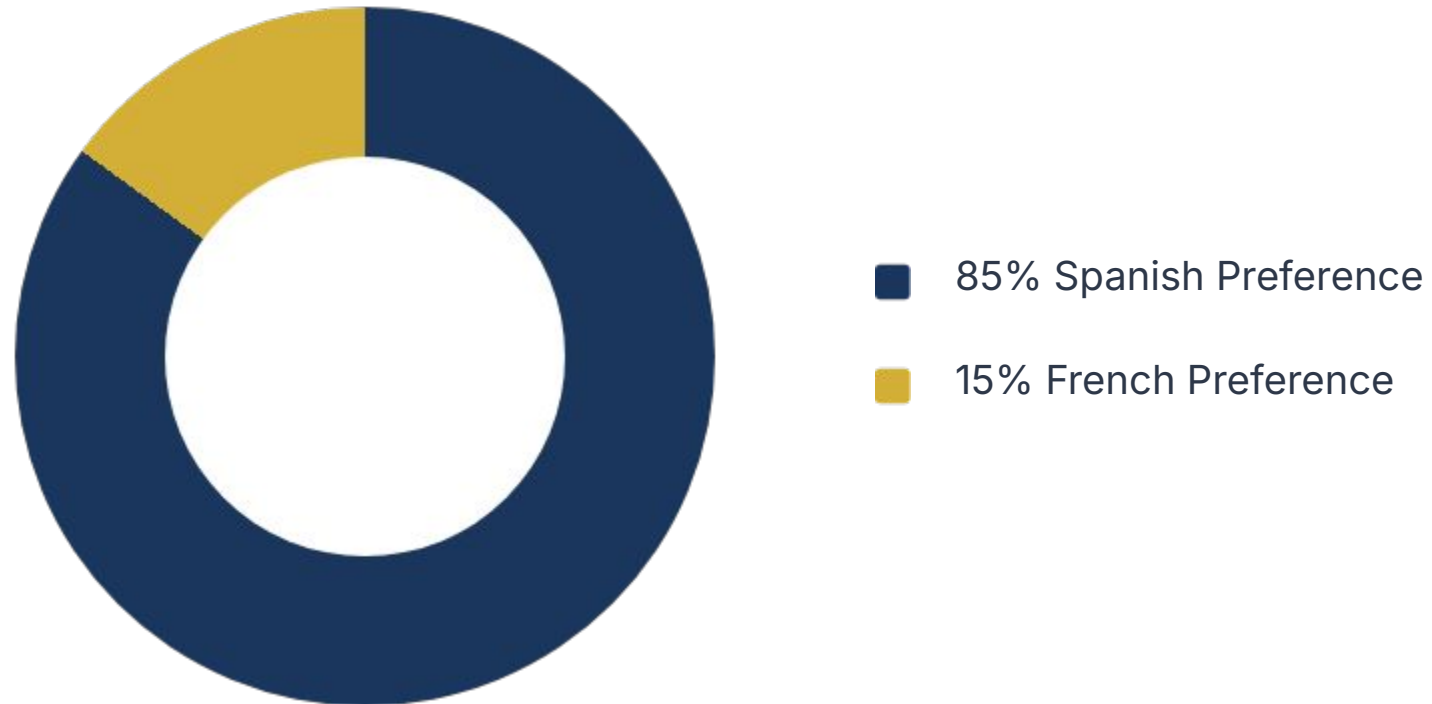
A data-driven review of shifting student preferences.

Historical Enrollment Trends



French enrollment has entered a consistent decline, shifting from a peak of 36% (2021) to 18% (2025).

Future Pipeline (Grades 3-5)



Based on 171 respondents from incoming 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families.

Critical Staffing Considerations

Impending Retirement

Maureen Szostak, our lead French educator, is set to retire in 2028. This necessitates a strategic staffing transition plan starting now.

Spanish Program Surge

Rising Spanish enrollment (80%+ forecast) will require increasing Spanish FTE to maintain manageable class sizes across all sections.



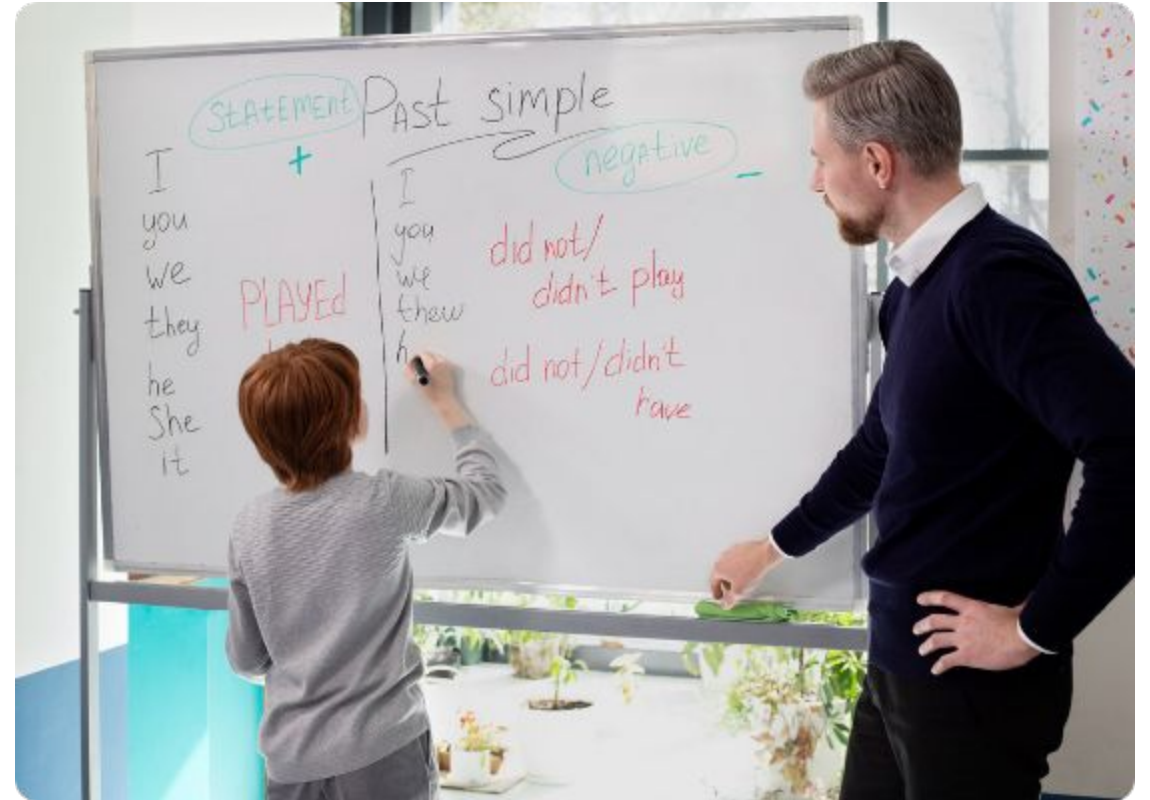
The Proposed Solutions

Balancing the human element with operational efficiency.

Priority 1: Part-Time Instructor

Strategic Recruitment: Prioritize finding a 0.5 FTE French teacher to maintain daily face-to-face instruction.

- ✓ High student engagement levels
- ✓ Consistent daily scheduling
- ⚠ Cons: Higher fixed staffing costs



Priority 2: Virtual School

Contingency: IVSA Solution

If an in-person candidate is not secured, the Illinois Virtual School (IVSA) provides a robust academic alternative.

- 📖 Credit-bearing original coursework
- 👥 Optional live instruction (1-2 days/week)
- 📈 Highly scalable based on enrollment



Virtual Implementation Economics

Service Model	Enrollment Fee	Live Instruction	Semester Total
IVSA (10 Students) - 1 Day Live	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$4,500
IVSA (10 Students) - 2 Day Live	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
IVSA (15 Students) - 2 Day Live	\$4,500	\$3,000	\$7,500

*Note: 0.5 FTE In-Person Teacher Salary estimated at \$40k-\$50k annually.

Comparative Strategic Analysis

In-Person Model

Pros: Human element, better pedagogical support, building culture.

Cons: Fixed costs regardless of small section sizes, difficult market recruitment.

Virtual Model

Pros: Cost-effective for small cohorts, scheduling flexibility, guaranteed availability.

Cons: Loses daily face-to-face rapport, requires high student autonomy.

Final Strategy & Recommendation

- ★ **Dual-Pathway Approval:** We recommend seeking a 0.5 FTE French instructor as the primary goal to preserve instructional quality.
- 🛡️ **Built-in Contingency:** Utilize IVSA as a fall-back to ensure students who choose French are never denied the opportunity.
- ⊕ **Spanish Expansion:** Concurrently prepare to increase Spanish FTE to handle the 85% preference surge.
- 📅 **Implementation:** Begin "Early ID" recruitment immediately for the 2028-29 school year.

Questions?

Strategic World Language Update | LBMS Board of Education

Lake Bluff District 65

Image Sources



<https://scribbledo.com/cdn/shop/articles/teacher-holding-english-class.jpg?v=1705578556&width=1100>

Source: scribbledo.com



<https://media.istockphoto.com/id/2027418433/photo/portrait-child-boy-studying-at-home-on-laptop.jpg?s=612x612&w=0&k=20&c=Oxzd7gcXwg6NazToNiU1altBxS5FOXp13CDrPOkHs1o=>

Source: www.istockphoto.com