

All Forms of Proposals are due by March 1, 2014

Use the Vicksburg Community Schools Proposal Form and the form outline as indicated. This form will be used as your cover sheet. Check each item as you edit or create your final draft.

- Proposal Background & Overview – Write a narrative that includes:
 - Relevant background/history.
 - Problem or other basis for the proposal (i.e. student needs, etc.).
 - Reasons for making the change.
 - Targeted students and District/Building/Curriculum Area Goals.

 - Complete Description of Proposed Change(s):
 - List all major changes, components and/or strategies of the proposal.
 - Give rationale for each change (base the rationale on research or best practice information).
 - Include new course/textbook title, course/textbook replaced, credit, and prerequisite(s).
 - Attach the current benchmarks/EPS, course outline, and/or general syllabus (models available upon request – contact curriculum office – VAB)

 - Implementation Plan
 - Give a full explanation of the implementation timeline, action items, and responsibilities for implementing.
 - Itemize, in detail, all proposal costs (include attachment). Include 1st year costs and a budget to maintain the proposal after implementation. Include resource needed to support change. (texts, soft/hardware, consumables, substitute cost, training, equipment, personnel). Use resource expenditures worksheet to itemize all costs.

 - Anticipated/Expected Impact
 - Explain the anticipated proposal outcomes. Describe how the proposal will impact students, staff, and the instructional program. Include expected gains in student success. Include how this proposal articulates with other courses/levels in this subject area & across the curriculum (scope and sequence) and, strategies for coordinating with other departments/levels.

 - Proposal Evaluation Plan and Student Achievement
 - Explain the means of assessment & grading (semester project, term paper, objective-based tests, surveys, workshop feedback).
 - Explain how this proposal will be evaluated, the timeline used, what data is to be collected (survey results, district assessments), and how the evaluation will be reported.
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Title of Proposal: Spanish Textbooks

Department and Curriculum Area: World Language

Building: VMS and VHS

Committee Chair: Jennifer Teall

Committee Members: Jennifer Teall, Jennifer VanBeck, Allison Lamers, Mike Freeland

Principal's Signature:  _____

Dates of Board Review and Action: _____

Spanish Proposal 2014-15 6/16/2014

Proposal Background & Overview:

The Michigan Merit Curriculum now requires that students take two years of a language other than English as part of their graduation requirements. This means that world languages are not really considered an elective anymore, and we are seeing a variety of students in our classrooms now. We are seeing a larger number of students with IEP's and learning disabilities, students that struggle with comprehension in English, and students who would have never decided to take a language before. That being said, our student growth goals are now encompassing a larger population and as a department, we felt it necessary to have resources that can best support our diverse learners.

Part of this requirement was a state approved assessment to prove that the curriculum in 8th grade was equivalent to that of high school in order for them to get Spanish 1 credit in the middle school. Our department chose to use the STAMP test and the resources that AVANT offers to us to best educate our students. We spent our professional development last summer for 2 days working with an AVANT representative and figuring out the best way to teach reading strategies and making our students proficient in the target language. The main thing the representative pushed for was the use of authentic texts in the classroom, not items written specifically for students.

We did not feel the current Realidades series offered enough authenticity for our students to practice within the classroom in reading and listening. After attending the World Language Conference in Lansing in fall of 2013, as a department we decided that the Vista Higher Learning series was more directed to proficiency like our goals and the STAMP test require.

This text series offers more "real-life" situations, informational texts, and literary texts both in the target language and English. This series also gives us texts in order to teach specific reading strategies that can be applied in any reading situation.

As a result of Spanish I being offered in the middle school, For 2014-15, 26 students are signed up for Spanish 4, with the majority of them being juniors. Some of these students will be interested in a fifth year of Spanish. As a result, the department is in the beginning stages of planning an Advanced Placement Spanish class.

Complete Description of Proposed Change(s):

The Spanish department proposes a change in textbooks from Realidades to Descubre. Descubre is better aligned with the proficiency assessments and school improvement goals the department has set. This text series offers informational texts, which is a huge component in the English Common Core Standards, literary texts, as well as more realistic situations. The readings and listening are not as scripted as Realidades for students. Students will hear native speakers at native pace in speaking and become more accustomed to the actual language outside of the classroom through this series.

This textbook publisher also offers a super site with many uses for technology. There is a virtual chat which students hear and see a native speaker ask them questions and they record their responses. Students can video chat and record a dialogue. There are supplemental tutorials and practice activities online available, and students will have access to listening and reading practice at home. We will have better options for them to practice the language outside of the classroom than only worksheets or workbooks; they are helpful, but not all that we should be assigning.

This textbook is also available online. With the passing of our current bond, we could have our classroom become mostly virtual and only need classroom sets of the materials as the students can access it even from their smart phones wherever they may be.

This book does move quite a bit faster than the Realidades series as well. Being that the text pushes for authenticity, the curriculum moves much faster than it originally did in Spanish 1. This means that our students will have a wider exposure to the language and grammar, which makes them more prepared for our STAMP final assessment.

Implementation Plan:

Our goal would be to phase it in over the next 3 years.
Spanish 1 to Descubre 1 in the 2014-2015 school year.
Spanish 2 to Descubre 2 in the 2015-2016 school year.
Spanish 3 to Descubre 3 in the 2016-2017 school year.

Currently our Spanish 3 students have finished the Spanish 2 books in the Realidades series. For Spanish 4 next year, they will be using the Descubre 3 text book as that is aligned with what they have learned so far. That phasing will only be for a short amount of time.

Again, the Spanish 4 and Spanish 5 curriculum will be changing throughout the next few years as the curriculum changes and the levels see new material. This current proposal does not include the materials that Spanish 4 and 5 will need after the 2014-2015 school year. We have not officially decided materials for those classes, and are still unsure of where the district would like to see Spanish 5 go.

Anticipated/Expected Impact:

As a result of this purchase, our students will find themselves seeing and using the language in a more realistic situation that pushes them in proficiency. They will have more access and hands on practice with the language outside of the classroom and homework that is more meaningful, useful and practical. They can monitor their progress via the supersite, and hopefully with the interactive communication piece, they will be excited to do their speaking rather than frustrated. Our goal is to make every student as proficient as we can in the language and culture. The curriculum moves faster and upon completion of our program here at Vicksburg, our students should be able to test into a higher level language classroom in a college or university. Upon completion of Spanish 3 currently, our students might test out of one or two 100 entry level courses.

Proposal Evaluation Plan and Student Achievement:

The first year will be challenging for us as a staff to get used to the new text, but we should see an increase in the proficiency of our level 1 students in all four areas on the STAMP test. Reading strategies are actually embedded in the margins of our textbook so students know which strategies to use with which text they are reading. These reading strategies can also be applied to any subject. As a staff, we can spend more time planning for our students, rather than spending hours looking for reading or listening practice and coming up with questions for them for our students. We can still do that, but this text series offers more than our current series and that allows more time for effective lesson planning specific to proficiency. As a whole, our students should become more proficient in all four areas of the language: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Descubre 2e					
Qty	Item Number	Description	Unit Price	Total Value	Total Cost
105	978-1-62680-357-2	Descubre 2e Level 1 Student Edition + Supersite (6 year license)(eDelivery)	\$83.00	\$8,715.00	\$8,715.00
95	978-1-61857-470-1	Descubre 2e Level 1 Supersite (6 year license) (eDelivery)	\$65.00	\$6,175.00	\$6,175.00
200	978-1-61857-208-0	Descubre 2e Level 1 Cuaderno de Practica	\$16.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
2	978-1-61857-317-9	Descubre 2e Level 1 Teacher Resource Box	\$327.00	\$654.00	\$0.00
30	978-1-62680-377-0	Descubre 2e Level 3 Student Edition + Supersite (6 year license)(eDelivery)	\$83.00	\$2,490.00	\$2,490.00
30	978-1-61857-210-3	Descubre 2e Level 3 Cuaderno de Practica	\$16.00	\$480.00	\$480.00
1	978-1-61857-340-7	Descubre 2e Level 3 Teacher Resource Box	\$327.00	\$327.00	\$0.00

Total Value	\$22,041.00
Total Gratis	\$981.00
Total Cost	\$21,060.00
Est. Shipping (4%)	\$881.64
Est. Grand Total Cost	\$21,941.64