

# World Language Update

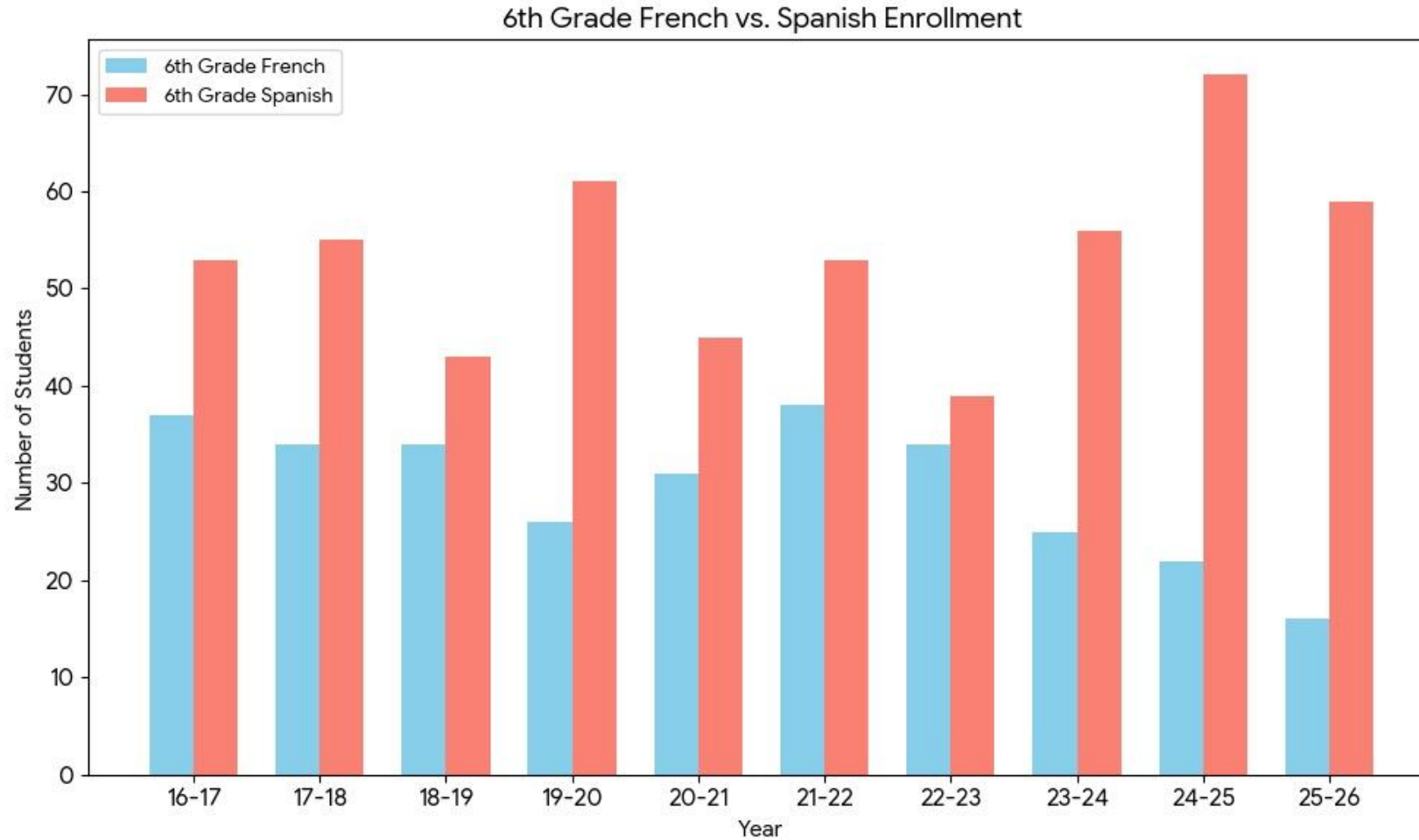
LAKE BLUFF MIDDLE SCHOOL | MAY 2026

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# Current Enrollment Landscape

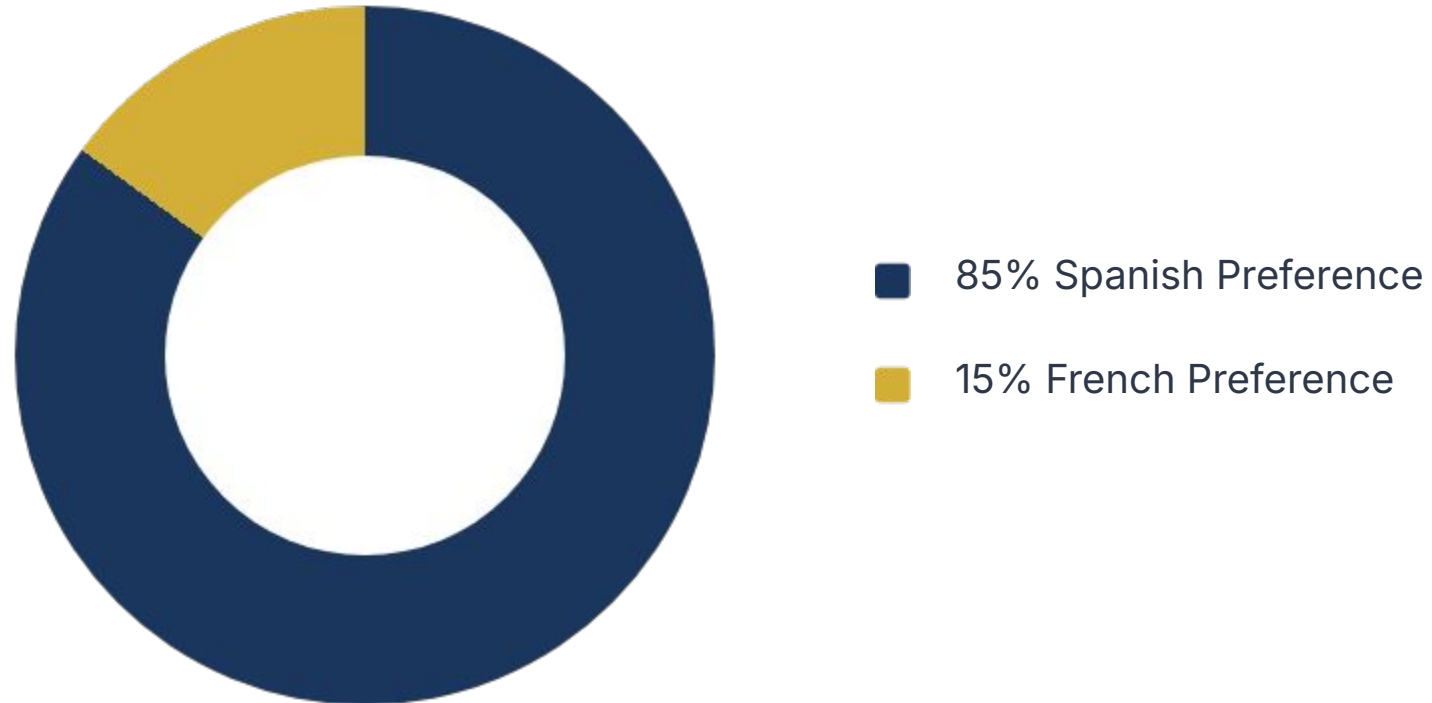
A data-driven review of shifting student preferences.

# 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.

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# 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>

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

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