



# FOOTPRINTS FOR LEARNING

## — CHARTER ACADEMY —

Global Perspectives, Entrepreneurial Spirit, Academic Excellence

Background: This is a policy draft designed for Footprints for Learning Charter Academy. It aligns with the *Alberta Education Guide to Education* regarding Course Challenges, specifically tailored for the **Spanish Language and Culture 10-3Y** course.

This policy facilitates the "Challenge" of the entry-level course so that proficient students can proceed directly into the standard Spanish 20-3Y (Semester I) and Spanish 30-3Y (Semester II) track.

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### **FLCA Policy: Course Challenge for Spanish Language and Culture**

**Policy Code:** FLCA-SP-CHL-01

**Department:** International Languages

**Applicable Course:** Spanish Language and Culture 10-3Y

**Reference:** *Alberta Education Guide to Education (ECS to Grade 12)* – "Course Challenge"

#### **1.0 Philosophy and Purpose**

FLCA recognizes that students may acquire language proficiency through experiences outside the traditional classroom, such as heritage language use, previous immersion, independent study, or continuous K-9 core classes. This policy outlines the procedure for students to demonstrate their mastery of the **Spanish 10-3Y** learner outcomes to receive credit and placement into higher-level coursework without completing the standard 125 hours of instruction.

#### **2.0 Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to challenge Spanish 10-3Y, the student must:

- Be enrolled as a student at FLCA.
- Provide evidence of readiness (e.g., heritage speaker status, prior residency in a Spanish-speaking country, or significant prior study).
- **Not** have previously taken and failed the course at FLCA or any other Alberta accredited school.

- Receive formal approval from FLCA Administration prior to the commencement of the assessment phase.

### 3.0 The Assessment Framework

In accordance with Alberta Education guidelines, the challenge assessment must determine if the student has met the specific learner outcomes prescribed in the *Program of Studies*. The assessment is twofold:

#### 3.1 Component A: The Portfolio (40% of Final Grade)

The student must submit a comprehensive portfolio demonstrating competence in the General Outcomes: *Applications, Language Competence, Global Citizenship, and Strategies*.

- **Written Production:** Three (3) distinct writing samples (e.g., a formal letter, a creative story, and a personal reflection) ranging from 150–250 words each.
- **Cultural Artifact/Project:** A presentation or research summary demonstrating understanding of a Spanish-speaking region's culture (music, art, history, or festivals).
- **Spoken Evidence:** A recorded video or audio introduction (2–3 minutes) discussing personal background, interests, and reasons for learning Spanish.

#### 3.2 Component B: The Challenge Exam (60% of Final Grade)

The student must sit for a supervised, onsite examination that covers the four linguistic strands:

1. **Listening Comprehension:** Answering questions based on audio passages.
2. **Reading Comprehension:** Interpreting texts relevant to the 10-3Y level.
3. **Grammar and Usage:** Demonstrating command of required verb tenses (present, immediate future) and vocabulary.
4. **Oral Proficiency Interview:** A face-to-face or digital interview with an FLCA Spanish evaluator to test spontaneous interaction.

### 4.0 Administration and Grading

#### 4.1 Evaluation Standards

- The Portfolio and Exam will be evaluated by an Instructor approved by FLCA Administrative with expertise in Spanish.
- A final blended grade (Portfolio + Exam) will be awarded in a percentage.
- **Passing Grade:** A minimum of **50%** is required to receive credit.
- **Recommended Proficiency for Advancement:** While 50% grants credit, FLCA strongly recommends a minimum score of **65%** for students intending to proceed immediately into Spanish 20-3Y to ensure future success.

#### 4.2 Transcript and Credits

- Upon successful completion, the mark will be reported to Alberta Education as a "Challenge" mark.
- The student will be awarded **5 credits** for Spanish 10-3Y.
- The mark awarded is final and appears on the official Alberta High School Transcript.

### 5.0 Scheduling and Advancement Pathway

This policy is designed to support the following acceleration schedule:

1. **Challenge Phase (September):** Student completes the Spanish 10-3Y Challenge (Portfolio + Exam). Note: Information materials can be issued to students once registered in the course (June).
2. **Semester I Placement:** Upon passing, the student is enrolled in the traditionally scheduled **Spanish 20-3Y**.
3. **Semester II Placement:** Upon successful completion of Spanish 20-3Y, the student proceeds to **Spanish 30-3Y**.

### 6.0 Application Procedure

1. **Initiation:** Student submits the *Notice of Intent to Challenge* form to the Guidance Office.
2. **Consultation:** A meeting with the Spanish Department Lead and Administration to review the Portfolio requirements.
3. **Approval:** FLCA Administration reviews the completed application. If approved, the exam date is set.
4. **Submission:** Portfolio is due the week prior to the scheduled Exam date.

7.0 Unsuccessful Candidates - Should a learner be unsuccessful in their attempt to Challenge Spanish 10 3Y at FLCA, they may enter Semester I Spanish at the 10 not the 20 level. They may continue in Semester II with Spanish 20 not the 30.

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