





Linguistic Model of application in the field of Education in CATALONIA¹

-  Name of the language: Catalan
-  Status of the language: Official
-  Classification of the language according to the UNESCO: Not applicable
-  Protected under the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

General description of the linguistic model of application in the territory

Since the early 1980's, the **vehicular language of learning** and habitual use at school is **Catalan**. All students, regardless of origin learn Catalan in school as well as Spanish and Aranese in the Aran Valley (also known as Occitan). The Catalan system of schooling guarantees equal rights for all students. Students are not segregated on the grounds of language and the system guarantees full command of Spanish at the end of compulsory schooling. Data show that the results on knowledge of Spanish by students in Catalonia are the same as in the rest of Spain.

Recognising the Catalan school as system that fully guarantees knowledge of both Catalan and Spanish, as well as Aranese in the Aran Valley, the system is also conceived to guarantee the learning of a foreign language, mainly English but also other languages such as French. The Catalan education system is directed at training plurilingual speakers, adapting the linguistic model in such a way as to ensure the entire school population learns other languages.

Since 2008, students in their final year at **primary school** take an external language communication skills test, with results divided into four categories: high (very good command), medium-high (good command), medium-low (sufficient command) and low (poor command).

In 2017, 74,507 students were tested, representing 94.1% of students enrolled. The results were similar for the four languages assessed. More than half of students had a high or medium-high level, around 25% were classed as high and 35% as medium-high, approximately 20% were classed as medium-low and the remaining 15% as low.

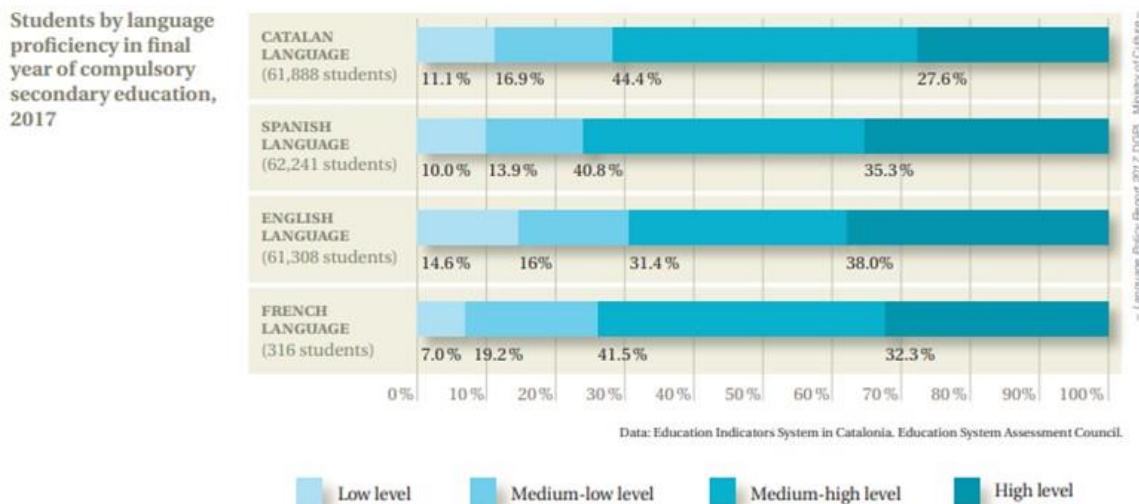
Students according to skills assessment level in final year of primary school, 2017



¹ Source: Directorate-General for Language Policy. Government of Catalonia

The same could be applied to **secondary school**:

In 2017, 65,358 students (94.4%) of fourth-year secondary education students from 1,064 schools took part in the external language communication skills test. As in the case of sixth-year primary school students, fourth-year secondary school students have a high or medium-high level in the four languages. In order, the **best results** were recorded in **Spanish** – 76.1%, medium-high and high – followed by French (73.8%), Catalan (72%) and English (69.8%).



- 🗨️ Total number of **primary students** (basic education) enrolled in public and private institutions (schooling year 2017/2018): 483.653 [Public centres: 326.704; private centres: 156.949]
- 🗨️ Total number of **secondary students** (middle school) enrolled in public and private institutions (schooling year 2017/2018): 519.126 [Public centres: 339.652; private centres: 179.474]