Leadership Project: Policy Analysis

**Activity 1b:**

**Review comparisons & contrasts between departmental policies for course recommendations and what criteria teachers actually use for this process**

Recommending Students from Spanish 3/4 (CP) to AP Spanish

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|  | **Criteria Used** | **Department Policy** |
| Respondent 1 | “I recommend anyone who has a C or better, with the admonition that it is a rigorous course.” | Students with a C+ or better may go on to either regular Spanish 4 or to AP/IB Spanish, which will be a combination of AP Spanish Language, and IB Spanish (both HL1 & HL2). All students will be preparing for an examination. Students not preparing for an examination should go to regular Spanish 4, as every student in this course will be required to test. |
| Respondent 2 | “The student must earn a C+ or higher in Spanish 3. Students with a C+ should be advised that the course is very rigorous and both the stunt and teacher should try to determine together if this is the best path for them.” |  |
| Respondent 3 | “If by the end of Spanish 3 the student is able to recognize the different tenses and I feel they have a strong understanding of the language then I recommend them to move on to 4AP. By this time they should also be able to read and understand what is being read. If I feel the student needs one more year I counsel them to take Spanish 4. All in all, if the student passes the class with a C they have the right to move on to Spanish 4AP.”  |  |
| **Comparisons**: All 3 respondents counsel students who have earned lower than a B- in Spanish 3 before recommending them on to AP Spanish, but still recommend. **Contrasts**: 1 teacher adheres to the department policy of recommending students who have earned a “C+” or higher in Spanish 3 to AP Spanish with counseling that the course is rigorous. 2/3 teachers will recommend a student who has earned a “C” in Spanish 3 with counseling. **Implications**: While all students earing below a “B-“ in Spanish 3 are counseled before being recommended to AP Spanish, some are allowed to move on with a “C“ while others must earn a “C+”, making it more difficult for some students to access the AP Spanish curriculum depending on who their Spanish 3 teacher is. Perhaps the Spanish dept. needs to re-assess the current policy and adjust a required grade of “C” or higher on order to be recommended to AP.**Barrier discovered**: **Inconsistent recommendation process being used by teachers of the same course as students try to access the AP curriculum**; some students are required to earn a higher grade than others in the prerequisite course to AP Spanish. |