Toward a Whole Language Curriculum for Teaching Reading in Spanish (Project)  

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Abstract  
Statistics from the United States Department of Education reveal that over half of the students in the United States lack foreign language proficiency. While immersion programs at the elementary level are the most successful model in helping students become proficient in a foreign language, they must have a clearly articulated curriculum. West Ottawa Public Schools recently began a Spanish immersion program, but lacks a Spanish reading curriculum. An evaluation of research reveals that the curriculum created for West Ottawa must capitalize on the fact that Spanish naturally divides into syllables and is an orthographically regular language. However,
must be taught through a whole language approach that moves that is meaningful, integrated, and standards-based.

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