

Learning Standards for Modern World Languages

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Introduction

The District of Columbia Modern World Languages Standards, as outlined in this document, represent the collaborative effort and dedication of many District of Columbia Public School teachers and charter school teachers, university professors, administrators, parents, and members of the educational community. The Standards are adapted from the Indiana and Massachusetts content standards, are aligned with the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Standards for Foreign Language in the 21st Century, and reflect the realities and needs of DC's community of public school learners.

Our vision is for all students to graduate with communicative and intercultural competence in one or more languages other than English. Research shows that students who study a world language achieve greater cognitive development and higher scores on standardized tests in reading, language arts, and mathematics. Furthermore, early exposure to more than one language stimulates the neurons in the developing brain and literally expands students' learning capacity and cognitive ability. According to the College Board, high school students who study a foreign language have higher SAT test scores –as much as 100 points higher on each section of the test.

Students in the District of Columbia live and work among great cultural, linguistic and social diversity. Proficiency in more than one language and knowledge of more than one culture are necessary and desirable skills that will enable students to participate more fully in a dynamic world. The fact that the DC school system requires its students to successfully complete two years of the same world language in sequence is a testament to the system's commitment to language education.

Modern World Language Programs Currently Offered in the Public Schools
The language program of study is based on a PK-12 continuum and is comprised of Dual Language, Foreign
Language in the Elementary School (FLES), Full Immersion, Heritage Language Immersion, Partial Immersion, and
Traditional Language Instruction models. Following is a brief description of each:

> Dual Language programs provide equal emphasis on English and a non-English language for classes in which one- to two-thirds of the students are native speakers of a non-English language, with the remainder being native speakers of English. In some dual language programs, more subjects are taught in the target language at the start. Instruction in English usually increases each year, beginning with 10 percent English

- instruction in PK and Kindergarten, and growing to 50 percent by 4th grade. Students in these programs are primarily target-language-dominant students.
- Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) is an approach to language learning that supports the teaching of concepts in other subject areas in a world language at the student's grade level. Generally, these programs provide 30-60 minutes of instruction three-to-five times per week.
- ➤ Full Immersion programs teach all subjects in the lower elementary grades (K-2) in the world language. Instruction in English usually increases in the upper elementary grades (3-6) to 20-50 percent, depending on the program. Students in these programs are primarily English-dominant students.
- Language for Native Speakers programs offer students who are raised in a home where a non-English language is spoken the opportunity to become bi-literate and bilingual in the native language and in English.
- ➤ Partial Immersion programs provide that 50 percent of subjects be taught in the world language. In some programs, the material taught in the world language is reinforced in English. Students in these programs are primarily English-dominant students.
- ➤ Traditional Language Instruction begins in middle or high school—typically in the sixth or ninth grade—with instruction provided daily for one class period. It is labeled "traditional" mainly because it is the most commonly provided language instruction model in the U.S.

Organization

The content standards are grouped under seven strands: Person-to-Person Communication; Interpretive Listening and Reading; Oral and Written Presentations; Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products; Connections with Other Disciplines through Language; Comparisons Between and Among Cultures; and Communication Across Communities. Every learning standard has a unique proficiency level identifier as follows:

Pre-Literacy: Students at this proficiency level are either in the early primary years before the development of writing and reading skills or at below basic. Emphasis is placed on oral development. Language-learning activities focus heavily on comprehension and speaking at this stage.

Level 1: Novice low to mid: Students at this proficiency level understand isolated words and short, learned utterances and/or phrases. Speaking is minimal, using learned material. Students require long pauses for assimilation and request periodic repetition and/or a slower rate of speech. Reading involves identifying isolated

and highly contextualized words and/or phrases. Students are able to copy or transcribe familiar words or phrases from memory.

Level 2: Novice mid to high: Students at this proficiency level have mastered language skills listed in the earlier levels. They are able to understand sentence-length utterances with strong contextual support and clearly audible speech. In speaking, students expand learned utterances and materials and show signs of spontaneity. In reading, students can interpret written language in areas of practical need, and write simple fixed expressions and memorized materials and supply information on forms and documents.

Level 3: Intermediate low to mid: Students at this proficiency level have mastered language skills listed in the earlier levels. They are able to understand utterances in a limited number of content areas. Repetition and rewording may be necessary. They are able to handle uncomplicated communicative tasks and they understand main ideas and/or some facts from connected and linguistically noncomplex texts. In writing, students are able to meet a number of practical writing needs with a collection of sentences on a given topic.

Level 4: Intermediate mid to high: Students at this proficiency level have mastered language skills listed in the earlier levels. They are able to understand longer stretches of connected discourse or conversation on a number of topics pertaining to different times and places. They can initiate, sustain, and close a general conversation in a range of circumstances. Students are able to read and get main ideas and information from texts featuring description and narration. In writing, they can take notes in some detail and write descriptions, narrations, and compositions in paragraphs.

Level 5: Intermediate high to Advanced low: Students at this proficiency level have mastered language skills listed in the earlier levels. They are able to understand the main ideas and details of connected discourse or conversation on a variety of topics. Students can communicate facts and talk about topics of current public and personal interest. They can read longer prose of several paragraphs in length and get the main ideas and facts, but may miss some details. Students have sufficient writing vocabulary to write routine social correspondence and join sentences in discourse of at least several paragraphs in length.

Strand 1: Person-to-Person Communication

Students engage in person-to-person communication in the target language.

- PL.1.1 Demonstrate understanding and use appropriate forms of address, such as greetings and farewells, in the target language.
- PL.1.2 Respond orally to introductions, presenting classmates, family members, and friends in the target language.
- PL.1.3 Demonstrate understanding of simple questions and give one- to two-word answers to simple questions in the target language.
- PL.1.4 Respond nonverbally to routine requests made in the target language in the classroom and in public places.
- PL.1.5 Follow simple multiple-step oral directions, instructions, and commands in the target language.

Strand 1: Person-to-Person Communication					
Students engage in person-to-person communication in the target language.					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Novice low to mid	Novice mid to high	Intermediate low to	Intermediate mid to	Intermediate high to	
		mid	high	Advanced low	
1.1.1 Exchange basic personal information orally, with emphasis on present time in the target	Perform Level 1 Learning Standards. 2.1.1 Exchange information	Perform Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Standards. 3.1.1 Exchange information	Perform Level 1-Level 3 Learning Standards. 4.1.1 Exchange opinions	Perform Level 1-Level 4 Learning Standards. 5.1.1 Exchange and	
language.	and ideas orally on everyday topics with	on personal events, familiar topics, and memorable	and preferences on a wide variety of contemporary	support perspectives on a wide variety of topics	
1.1.2 Initiate brief conversations in the target language, applying basic	emphasis on present, past, and future time in the target language.	experiences in the target language, with emphasis on a variety of time frames.	topics and events in the target language.	dealing with contemporary and historical topics and events in the target	
language patterns, and familiar phrases and sentences (e.g., "How are	2.1.2 Initiate and close	3.1.2 Initiate, sustain, and close conversations in the	4.1.2 Sustain conversations in the target language, applying new vocabulary	language. 5.1.2 Participate in	
you?").	short conversations in the target language, applying	target language, applying familiar vocabulary and	and structures to common situations.	extended conversations in the target language,	
1.1.3 Ask and answer	familiar, recombined	structures to new		applying new vocabulary	
simple questions about	phrases and sentences and	situations.	4.1.3 Ask and answer	and structures to common	
basic personal information	expressions for managing		factual and interpretive	and new situations.	
and the student's	conversations.	3.1.3 Ask and answer	questions on a wide range		
immediate environment in		factual questions on a	of topics in the target	5.1.3 Ask and answer	
the target language (e.g.,	2.1.3 Ask and answer	variety of topics in the	language.	questions that require	
name, age, address).	questions in the target	target language.		follow-up questions and	
	language to clarify		4.1.4 Use culturally	make requests for more	
1.1.4 Use culturally	information regarding	3.1.4 Use culturally	appropriate expressions,	information on a wide	
appropriate gestures to	routine and familiar	appropriate expressions	paraphrasing, and	range of topics in the target	
convey and comprehend	activities.	and requests for	circumlocution in the target	language.	
messages.	2.1.4 Has sultimally	clarification in the target	language to comprehend the		
1 1 E Cive and respond to	2.1.4 Use culturally	language in order to convey	main ideas of messages.		
1.1.5 Give and respond to basic commands in the	appropriate non-verbal behaviors and simple	and comprehend messages.			
target language in	paraphrasing in the target				
classroom settings.	language to convey and				
ciassiooni settings.	comprehend messages.				

1.1.6 Express likes, dislikes, and basic needs to others in the target language.	2.1.5 Give and follow a short list of commands and directions in the target language in order to complete simple tasks in a variety of familiar situations.	3.1.5 Give and follow a series of commands and directions in the target language in order to complete tasks in a variety of familiar situations in public places.	4.1.5 Give and follow a series of detailed instructions in the target language in unfamiliar or novel situations. 4.1.6 Express and support	5.1.4 Use culturally appropriate words in the target language and demonstrate culturally appropriate behavior in diverse settings to express and comprehend ideas.
	2.1.6 Express likes, dislikes, needs, and emotions in the target language, with some explanation.	public places. 3.1.6 Express one's state of being and feelings in the target language, with elaboration on the causes.	opinions, desires, and preferences in the target language, with elaboration and substantiation.	5.1.5 Give, follow, and restate an extended series of detailed directions or instructions in the target language in unfamiliar or novel situations.
				5.1.6 Express, support, and justify opinions and preferences and elicit the opinions/preferences of others in the target language.

Strand 2: Interpretive Listening and Reading

Students listen and respond to passages in the target language for understanding and enjoyment.

- PL.2.1 Identify people and objects based on visual cues, props, and prompts in the target language.
- PL.2.2 Listen attentively and respond to stories in the target language.
- PL.2.3 Demonstrate understanding of basic ideas and familiar details expressed in the target language.
- PL.2.4 Obtain information and knowledge from simple printed materials accompanied by visual cues in the target language.
- PL.2.5 Listen to and interpret simple stories and poems read aloud or told in the target language.
- PL.2.6 Respond to oral directions and routine requests in the classroom and public places in the target language.

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	1.2.5 Identify the general tone when reading and listening to target-language passages that are accompanied by strong visual support.	2.2.5 Identify the tone of a highly contextualized oral and written communications in the target language.	3.2.5 Interpret the tone and meaning of oral and written communications in the target language with little or no support from visual aids.	4.2.5 Respond appropriately to the tone and meaning in oral and written communications in the target language found in a variety of authentic sources dealing with a diversity of topics.	5.2.4 Analyze plots, theme, setting, and characters of authentic target-language literary text, using textual evidence to support interpretations. 5.2.5 Evaluate the tone and implied meaning of oral and written communications in the target language found in a variety of authentic

Strand 3: Oral and Written Presentations

Students develop oral and written presentations on a variety of topics in the target language.

- PL.3.1 Participate in choral poems and story-retelling activities in the target language.
- PL.3.2 Sing simple songs of the target culture(s) in the target language.
- PL.3.3 Reproduce short memorized responses for classroom activities in the target language.
- PL.3.4 Match words in the target language to-the concrete objects they represent.

Strand 3: Oral and Written Presentations					
Students develop oral and written presentations on a variety of topics in the target language.					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Novice low to mid	Novice mid to high	Intermediate low to	Intermediate mid to	Intermediate high to	
		mid	high	Advanced low	
1.3.1 Prepare brief descriptions about people, places, and things, and share them with the audience orally and in writing in the target language. 1.3.2 Tell or retell familiar stories orally and in writing in the target language. 1.3.3 Recite and dramatize rehearsed, culturally authentic materials, including short songs, short anecdotes, and simple poetry in the target language. 1.3.4 Present information orally and in writing that contains familiar vocabulary, phrases, and structural patterns in simple sentences with accurate word order, using present and past time, in the target language.	Perform Level 1 Learning Standards. 2.3.1 Prepare illustrated reports about activities or events in the environment, and share them with the audience orally and in writing in the target language. 2.3.2 Present original short stories with illustrations, descriptions, and details in the target language. 2.3.3 Recite and dramatize rehearsed, culturally authentic materials, including short skits, poems, plays, narratives, and/or songs, with some attention to form and accuracy in intonation and pronunciation in the target language.	Perform Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Standards. 3.3.1 Present information gathered from formal and informal conversations, interviews, class presentations, and readings, using a variety of multimedia supports orally and in writing in the target language. 3.3.2 Create short stories based on culturally authentic themes, and d share them with the audience orally and in writing in the target language. 3.3.3 Produce and dramatize original culturally authentic materials, including skits, poems, plays, narratives, and/or songs, with considerable attention to accuracy in intonation and pronunciation in the target language.	Perform Level 1–Level 3 Learning Standards. 4.3.1 Present and defend opinions on a variety of issues, with documentation from primary sources orally and in writing in the target language.	Perform Level 1–Level 4 Learning Standards. 5.3.1 Prepare comparisons, interpretations, and critical analyses on a variety of topics, with documentation, and share them with the audience orally and in writing in the target	

2.3.4 Present	information 3.3.4 Presen	it information 4.3.4	4 Present information	5.3.4 Present information
orally and in w	riting that orally and in	writing that orally	ly and in writing that is	orally and in writing that
contains learne	ed as well as contains lear	rned as well as well-	-organized and contains	contains well-developed
original langua	age in simple original lang	uage in more comp	plex grammatical	ideas and complex
sentences and	paragraphs, complex sen	tences and struc	ctures and language and	grammatical structures
with accurate	word order paragraphs v	with accurate tone	appropriate to the	and includes language,
and spelling, u	ising present, word order,	punctuation, audie	ience and purpose, using	tone, and style
past, and futur	re time, in accents and	other diacritical a wid	de variety of time	appropriate to the
the target lang	guage. marks, and s	spelling, using frame	nes, in the target	audience, style, and
	a variety of	time frames, in langu	juage.	purpose, using a full
	the target la	nguage.		range of time frames, in
	***			the target language.
			₽	



Strand 4: Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products Students gain knowledge and understanding of the target culture(s).

- PL.4.1 Demonstrate greeting and leave-taking behaviors in classroom situations, using gestures and/or appropriate words, phrases, and expressions in the target language.
- PL.4.2 Interact appropriately in group activities that are typical of the target culture(s).
- PL.4.3 Identify distinctive tangible products representative of the target culture(s).
- PL.4.4 Participate in artistic activities representative of the target culture(s).
- PL.4.5 Develop awareness that people in different countries may speak different languages.

Strand 4: Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products						
	Students gain knowledge and understanding of the target culture(s).					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5		
Novice low to mid	Novice mid to high	Intermediate low to	Intermediate mid to	Intermediate high to		
		mid	high	Advanced low		
1.4.1 Recognize and identify customs and traditions of the target culture(s), such as greetings, leave-takings, and common forms of courtesy expressions. 1.4.2 Identify tangible products of the target culture(s), such as toys, contemporary dress, dwellings, foods, currencies, and other everyday items. 1.4.3 Recognize the prominent artistic expressions of the target culture(s), with an emphasis on the visual and performing arts. 1.4.4 Identify some common beliefs and attitudes within the target culture(s), such as social etiquette or the role of the family.	Perform Level 1 Learning Standards. 2.4.1 Interact in group cultural activities using appropriate patterns of behavior and courtesy expressions in the target language. 2.4.2 Investigate and describe the function of various useful everyday objects in the target culture(s). 2.4.3 Describe the function of various artistic styles (e.g., jewelry, ceramics, stone carvings) in the target culture(s) from various historical periods. 2.4.4 Identify common beliefs and attitudes within the target culture(s) and compare them to the student's own beliefs and attitudes.	Perform Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Standards. 3.4.1 Engage appropriately in real or simulated cultural events, such as family and community activities, from the target culture(s). 3.4.2 Investigate and describe the relevance of various products, artifacts, and symbols of the target culture(s) that are used day-to-day, and the ideas or perspectives related to them. 3.4.3 Identify, read, and respond to the ideas and perspectives of the target culture(s) as evidenced through artistic expressions, such as children's songs, stories, rhymes, and folktales.	Perform Level 1–Level 3 Learning Standards. 4.4.1 Discuss patterns of behavior typically associated with the target culture(s), such as rites of passage, national ceremonies, and celebrations, and the perspectives associated with them. 4.4.2 Analyze how various products, artifacts, and symbols from the target culture(s) reflect the ideas and perspectives of the target culture(s). 4.4.3 Analyze examples of the literary, visual, and performing arts of the target culture(s), including stories, poetry, music, paintings, dance, and drama, and describe how they reflect cultural themes and perspectives.	Perform Level 1–Level 4 Learning Standards. 5.4.1 Examine, analyze and discuss the perspectives and patterns of behavior from the target culture(s) related to various life stages (e.g., dating, marrying, pursuing studies), including any recent evolution in those perspectives and patterns. 5.4.2 Analyze the historical background and significance of objects and symbols and how they came to represent the target culture(s). 5.4.3 Analyze and evaluate the impact of artistic expressions from the target culture(s) on artistic expressions in other regions of the world.		

1.4.5 Identify individuals	2.4.5 Identify historical	3.4.4 Identify opinions on	4.4.4 Compare, contrast	5.4.4 Analyze and
associated with important	and/or contemporary	contemporary issues held	and analyze the treatment	synthesize various
historical and contemporary	figures from the target	generally by the target	of controversial issues in	perspectives of the target
events from the target	culture(s) and describe	culture(s) and compare	both the target culture(s)	culture(s) related to
culture(s).	their contributions.	them to opinions generally	and the student's own	important issues of current
		held in the student's own	culture.	events using authentic
		culture.		sources.
			4.4.5 Evaluate the impact	
		3.4.5 Describe the	historical factors have had	5.4.5 Analyze and discuss
		significance of important	on the evolution and/or	the international
		historical events in regions	preservation of key cultural	repercussions of recent
		of the world where the	practices and perspectives	historical, political, or
		target language is spoken,	in regions of the world	economic events in regions
		and place them in	where the target language	of the world where the
		chronological order.	is spoken.	target language is spoken.

Strand 5: Connections with Other Disciplines through Languages

Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the target language.

Pre-Literacy

PL.5.1 Use the target language to reinforce concepts in other content areas.



Level 1 Novice low to mid 1.5.1 Name the geographic Perfo	Level 2 Novice mid to high	knowledge of other disc Level 3 Intermediate low to mid	iplines through the targe Level 4 Intermediate mid to	Level 5
Novice low to mid 1.5.1 Name the geographic Perfo	Novice mid to high	Intermediate low to		
1.5.1 Name the geographic	_		Intermediate mid to	
	rform Level 1 Learning	mid		Intermediate high to
	rform Level 1 Learning		high	Advanced low
world where the target language is spoken, such as key mountains, rivers, and cities, and identify the climate of those regions, using maps. 1.5.2 Identify key historical events being studied, using the target language. 1.5.3 Describe personal health and well-being in the target language. 2.5 historical language 2.5 about studilang language 2.5 about studilang studied, using the target language. 2.5 on e bein target language. 2.5 conce	andards. 5.1 Recognize and entify the location(s) and alor geographical atures of regions of the rld where the target aguage is spoken. 5.2 Sequence major torical events being adied, using the target aguage. 5.3 Present information but health issues being adied, using the target aguage. 6.4 Present information environmental issues ing studied, using the get language. 6.5 Apply basic math incepts to daily activities, ang the target language.	Perform Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Standards. 3.5.1 Discuss how cultural traditions form perspectives that are shaped by geography and climate in regions of the world where the target language is spoken. 3.5.2 Compare and contrast historical events being studied, using the target language. 3.5.3 Compare and contrast different approaches to health issues being studied, using the target language. 3.5.4 Compare and contrast diverse opinions on environmental issues being studied, using the target language. 3.5.5 Present factual mathematical data, using	Perform Level 1–Level 3 Learning Standards. 4.5.1 Analyze how socioeconomic, historical, and geographical factors affect cultural practices and perspectives in regions of the world where the target language is spoken. 4.5.2 Analyze historical events being studied, using the target language. 4.5.3 Analyze the causes of contemporary health issues, using the target language. 4.5.4 Analyze environmental issues, using various sources in the target language. 4.5.5 Analyze mathematical data, using the target language.	Perform Level 1–Level 4 Learning Standards. 5.5.1 Analyze and explain how socio-economic, climatic, environmental, and/or geographical issues affect the cultural practices and opinions in regions of the world where the target language is spoken. 5.5.2 Acquire historical information from a variety of sources written in the target language about topics beings studied, and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the target language and culture(s). 5.5.3 Analyze health initiatives designed to address contemporary health issues, using the target language.

		5.5.4 Analyze the causes, consequences, and possible solutions to environmental issues, using various sources in the target language.
		5.5.5 Draw conclusions from mathematical data, using the target language.

Strand 6: Comparisons Between and Among Cultures

Students develop insights into the nature of the target language and culture(s) and make comparisons to their own. Pre-Literacy

- PL.6.1 Demonstrate awareness that behaviors such as gestures and greetings may differ among cultures.
- PL.6.2 Identify similarities and differences between products (tangible and intangible) of the target culture and the student's own culture.
- PL. 6.3 Recognize similarities and differences between speaking and writing systems of the target and home languages.



Strand 7: Communication Across Communities

Students use the target language both within and beyond the school setting.

- PL.7.1 Use the target language in school-wide activities, such as performances, field trips, and/or art displays.
- PL.7.2 Perform and/or participate in a school or community celebration in the target language.
- PL.7.3 Visit places in person or via technology that provide opportunities to use the target language and/or to experience the target culture(s).
- PL.7.4 Visit and listen to various forms of media that utilize the target language and reflect other target culture(s).

Strand 7: Communication Across Communities								
Students use the target language both within and beyond the school setting.								
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5				
Novice low to mid	Novice mid to high	Intermediate low to	Intermediate mid to	Intermediate high to				
		mid	high	Advanced low				
1.7.1 Identify local	Perform Level 1 Learning	Perform Level 1 and Level 2	Perform Level 1-Level 3	Perform Level 1- Level4				
community resources	Standards.	Learning Standards.	Learning Standards.	Learning Standards.				
(embassies and other								
organizations) that	2.7.1 Use community	3.7.1 Research, organize,	4.7.1 Identify careers that	5.7.1 Use local and				
represent the target	resources to research	or and engage in family,	are enhanced by knowledge	international community				
culture(s).	topics of personal and	school, and community	of the target language and	resources to research a				
47256	community concerns	events and/or celebrations	culture(s), and interview	cultural or and linguistic				
1.7.2 Perform skits and	related to the target	in order to promote	target language speakers of	topics related to the target-				
songs in the target	culture(s).	understanding of culture(s)	the local community to	language-speaking				
language for school and community celebrations.	2.7.2 Practice the target	that speak the target	learn how they use the language in their various	community.				
community celebrations.	language (oral and written)	language.	fields of work.	5.7.2 Initiate contact with				
	with family, friends, and	3.7.2 Share knowledge	lielus of work.	native target-language				
	peers.	of the target language and	4.7.2 Listen to music, and	speakers in the community				
	pecial	culture(s) with classmates	view films and television	in order to discuss topics of				
		and with younger students	programs in the target	personal, community, or				
		who may be learning the	language and interact with	world interest.				
		target language.	others about what is heard,					
			seen, and experienced.					
			-					

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