
Discipline-Based Professional Teaching Standards For Teachers Of World Languages

I. Content Knowledge

World language teachers demonstrate linguistic competence and cross-cultural proficiency in the language(s) they teach. They have the knowledge, awareness and ability to compare and contrast the home culture(s) and the target culture(s).

World language teachers understand the cumulative nature of language learning (i.e., language proficiency develops and expands, yet continues to build on all previous learning). Key domains of knowledge include:

- research in first- and second-language acquisition;
- general linguistics;
- current brain research; and
- various assessment models related to listening, speaking, writing and cultural understanding in the target language.

World language teachers demonstrate an understanding of the interdisciplinary base of world language instruction (e.g., language arts, history, the arts, mathematics, etc).

II. Learning Environment

World language teachers create and maintain a nurturing learning environment that encourages risk taking and creative use of language. This linguistic learning environment embodies the practices, perspectives and products of the culture(s) being studied.

III. Learners

World language teachers believe that all students have the potential to learn and be successful in acquiring and using language in and beyond the classroom. They recognize that students' development, linguistic backgrounds, abilities and interests influence their thinking, learning and use of language. They demonstrate awareness of student diversity and learn strategies to build understanding in the classroom.

IV. Instruction

World language teachers use a variety of authentic⁹ materials and cultural products, including technology and human resources. World language teachers understand that people use listening and speaking, reading and writing, viewing and performing as ways to build understanding. They help students to develop these skills in a variety of cultural contexts. They explore with students varied cultures in which the language is used as a medium of communication.

⁹ "authentic" means created by native speakers for native speakers