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Position Statement on World Languages Standards-Based Teaching, Learning and Assessment

--Colorado Content Collaborative in World Languages

The Colorado Academic Standards in World Languages call for a shift in language learning and assessment. They are benchmarked with proficiency ranges rather than grade levels given the fact that students in our state have different entry points into the learning of another language.

Our world languages standards are communicative and proficiency-based in nature, with culture embedded throughout. In a standards-based World Language classroom:

Teachers

- use the target language at least 90% of the time.
- provide opportunities for learners to acquire language in meaningful, real-world contexts.
- use authentic sources to facilitate the understanding of cultural products, practices and perspectives.

Learners

- use the target language to perform real world tasks.
- demonstrate growth in their communicative proficiency through formative and summative performance assessments.
- acquire higher levels of proficiency for college and career readiness in programs that start in elementary school and allow for uninterrupted study through high school.

Appropriate learner assessments are performance-based and must be aligned with the three modes of communication (interpretive--listening and reading; interpersonal--speaking and writing; and presentational--speaking and writing). They are focused on what learners can actually do with the language. Therefore, discrete measurements of isolated skills, such as grammar points, vocabulary knowledge and cultural facts are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** measures of student proficiency.

World Languages teachers acknowledge the value of the use of student growth measures in assessing educator effectiveness. Effective implementation of a performance-based assessment process will provide meaningful support for Colorado World Languages educators, their students and their schools.

Sources:

Colorado Academic Standards in World Languages:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/coworldlanguages/statestandards>

ACTFL Position Statement Languages as a Core Component of Education for All Students:

<http://www.actfl.org/news/position-statements/languages-core-component-education-all-students>

Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning (TELL) Project Feedback tool:

<http://www.tellproject.com/>