

World Language Revision Summary

Summer 2018

Overview

The World Language work group reconvened on June 18, 2018 to review the educator feedback collected through an online survey during the 2017-2018 school year. Prior to revisions of the proposed standards, work group members reviewed all the compiled k-12 comments. Next the group focused upon specific comments which needed consideration for any final determinations to the proposed standards presented to the board in the fall of 2018.

Comments provided guidance to these targeted areas:

- Language clarifications with wording such as custom, practices, products
- Suggestions for resources to support standards once adopted

Positive feedback from educator comments:

- Educators felt that the expansion of the description of the standards and the organization and clarity within the standards will be beneficial to educators, parents, and students.
- The revision of the language and cultural comparisons are more accessible and clear for student learning and specify skills instead of abstract concepts.
- Educators appreciated language and examples that included sign language and the various cultures and learners represented within South Dakota.

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The goals of the work group members were to initially revisit the existing standards and to determine aspects that would be the focus for key revisions and for areas of strength that would be retained in the revised standards.

Key Topics of Discussion

- Other content standards are divided by grade level and grade bands; however, the world language standards are a k-12 progression, so vertical conversations were vital for scaffolding of skills built from novice, intermediate, to advance in both skill sets and understanding of language and cultural connections.
- Focus on respect for language, culture, and history found uniquely within our state and the variety of wording or examples that would indicate the culture and language found in South Dakota which would resonate with our students.
- Expanding understanding of the standards for educators, parents, and community and adding clarification to terminology that might benefit all learners to the standards intentions.

Key Proposals for World Language Standards

- Addition of an Introduction that would clarify for educators, parents, and students the overarching goals of world language standards and research that supports standards development.
- The 5 standards (5Cs) Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities would each have a mini-introduction prior to listing the actual standards.
- In the Culture Standards it was determined that clarifications were needed prior to the standards to help define for the learner/reader the significance of the academic vocabulary (practice, products, perspectives).
- Expansion of the standards with concise language and examples that would represent a variety of cultures, languages, and history represented across South Dakota.