

Report to the Board of Education

Foreign Language Study

Included in this information are two artifacts. The first document provides the Board of Education with the languages that are offered by the highest-ranking high schools in U.S. News and World Report in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. You will note that many of these high schools are either private schools, charter schools or academy high schools. A quick visual review shows that Spanish and French are popular language offerings at these high schools. There is a mix of schools who require a language for graduation versus an elective offering. German, Latin and Chinese would be popular additional languages. Follow up reporting regarding languages would be to do a quick review of enrollment in Spanish and French at Geneseo High School. With the announcement of Mrs. Mattie's retirement in a few years, there is the need for some discussion about how she may or may not be replaced.

The second piece of information included with this report comes from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. This two-page report highlights the "5 C's of Foreign Language Education" and outlines the primary standards involved in 21st Century Foreign Language teaching. Traditionally, foreign language courses focused on the "how" (grammar) to say "what" (vocabulary). Today, foreign language classrooms endeavor to teach students "***Knowing how, when and why to say what to whom***". These ten words embody the Five C's of Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.

Moving forward towards a more focused standards-based education, while simultaneously facing declining enrollment and diminishing revenue sources, elective courses such as foreign language must be examined carefully for their position in the overall curriculum, not just at the high school, but K-12.

It would be difficult to prepare a recommendation at this time, but the future of foreign language course offerings, and either its expansion or contraction, will become more clear when future fiscal year budgets, enrollments, and implications of both legislation and negotiations are finalized.

IL- Blue; Iowa- red
Wisconsin-green; Minnesota-black

Foreign Language Study

Top US Midwestern High Schools

School	District	Students	Language 1	Language 2	Language 3	Language 4	Language 5	Language 6	Language 7	Language 8	Language 9	Language 10	Language 11	Required?
Northside CP	Chicago Public Schools	1088	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German							yes
Walter Payton CP	Chicago Public Schools	895	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese			Japanese					yes
Jones CP	Chicago Public Schools	848		French	Spanish	Chinese								yes
Whitney Young Magnet	Chicago Public Schools	2177	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese			Japanese	Italian	Sign Language			yes
Deerfield	Twp Hsd 113	1705		French	Spanish	Chinese		Hebrew						no
Adlai E Stevenson	Adlai E Stevenson Hsd 125	4182	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German	Hebrew						no
Highland Park	Twp Hsd 113	1995		French	Spanish	Chinese		Hebrew		Italian				no
Hinsdale Central	Twp Hsd 86	2723	Latin	French	Spanish		German							no
Prospect	Twp Hsd 214	2117		French	Spanish	Chinese	German		Japanese	Italian	Sign Language			yes
John Hersey	Twp Hsd 214	1989		French	Spanish	Chinese	German		Japanese	Italian	Sign Language			yes
Lincoln Park	Chicago Public Schools	2231		French	Spanish		German					Arabic		yes
New Trier township	Twp Hsd 203	3075	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German	Hebrew	Japanese					no
Gwendolyn Brooks CP	Chicago Public Schools	769		French	Spanish									unknown
Lane Technical	Chicago Public Schools	4170	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German			Italian		Arabic		yes
Riverside Brookfield	Twp Sd 208	1430		French	Spanish		German							yes
Glenbrook North	Twp Hsd 225	2102	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German	Hebrew					Russian	unknown
Lake Forest	Chsd 115	1729	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German							no
Evanston Township	Twp Hsd 202	2895	latin	french	spanish	chinese	german	hebrew	japanese		sign language			no
Vernon Hills	Chsd 128	1324		french	spanish	chinese	german							yes
Libertyville	Chsd 128	1991	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German							yes
St. Charles North	Cusd 303	2050	Latin	French	Spanish		German							no
William Fremd	Twp Hsd 211	2477		French	Spanish	Chinese	German							yes
Neuqua Valley	Cusd 204	4243		French	Spanish	Chinese	German							no
Barrington	Cusd 220	3016	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German							no
Oak Park & River Forest	Sd 200	3168	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German		Japanese	Italian				yes
John F Kennedy	Cedar Rapids CSD	1760		French	Spanish	Chinese	German		Japanese					no
Decorah HS	Decorah CSD	610			Spanish									no
Ames HS	Ames CSD	1406		French	Spanish		German					Arabic		no
Cedar Falls HS	Cedar Falls CSD	1090		French	Spanish		German							no
Linn-Mar HS	Linn-Mar CSD	1710		French	Spanish									no
Mid-Prairie HS	Mid-Prairie CSD	338			spanish									no
ADM Sr HS	Adel Desoto Minburn CSD	434		French	Spanish									no
West Liberty HS	West Liberty CSD	328			Spanish									no
Prairie HS	College CSD	968			Spanish		German							no
Ankeny HS	Ankeny CSD	1595		French	Spanish	Chinese								no
Pleasant Valley HS	Pleasant Valley CSD	1166		French	Spanish				Japanese					no
Johnston Sr HS	Johnston CSD	1282		French	Spanish									no
Pella HS	Pella CSD	686		French	Spanish									no
Williamsburg HS	Williamsburg CSD	585			Spanish									no
Sioux Central High	Sioux Central CSD	255			Spanish									no
Shorewood High	Shorewood SD	615		French	Spanish	chinese			Japanese					yes
King International	Milwaukee Public Schools	1720	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	yes
Marshfield High	Marshfield Unified SD	1261		French	Spanish		German							no
West High	West Bend SD	1180		French	Spanish		German							no
Carmen High & Tech	Milwaukee Public Schools	195			Spanish									yes
Germantown High	Germantown SD	1454	Latin	French	Spanish		German							yes
Lancaster High	Lancaster CSD	295		French	Spanish									no
North High	Appleton Area SD	1517	Latin	French	Spanish		German							no
Ashwaubenon High	Ashwaubenon SD	1013			Spanish		German							no
Seneca High	Seneca SD	90	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Spring Valley High	Spring Valley SD	214			spanish		German				sign language			no
Fennimore High	Fennimore CSD	310	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Menomonie High	Menomonie Area SD	993		French	Spanish		German							no

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Holmen High	Holmen SD	1039		French	Spanish									no
Nathan Hale High	West Allis-West Milwaukee SD	1619		French	Spanish		German							no
Mahtomedi Sr HS	Mahtomedi PSD	1180		French	Spanish		German							no
Edina HS	Edina PSD	1902	Latin	French	Spanish	Chinese	German				sign language			no
St. Anthony Village HS	St. Anthony-New Brighton Schools	668		French	Spanish									no
TrekNorth HS	Treknorth High School	171			Spanish									yes
Wayzata HS	Wayzata PSD	3223		French	Spanish	Chinese	German							no
Minnetonka HS	Minnetonka PSD	2840		French	Spanish	Chinese	German				sign language			no
Eagan HS	Rosemount-Apple Valley- Eagan	2231		French	Spanish	Chinese	German							no
Mounds View HS	Mounds View PSD	1744		French	Spanish	Chinese	German				sign language			no
Century Senior High	Rochester PSD	1370	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Irondale Sr HS	Mounds View PSD	1560		French	Spanish	Chinese	German				sign Language			no

The purposes and uses of foreign languages are as diverse as the students who study them. Some students study another language in hopes of finding a rewarding career in the international marketplace or government service. Others are interested in the intellectual challenge and cognitive benefits that accrue to those who master multiple languages. Still others seek greater understanding of other people and other cultures. Many approach foreign language study, as they do other courses, simply to fulfill a graduation requirement. Regardless of the reason for study, foreign languages have something to offer everyone. It is with this philosophy in mind that the standards task force identified five goal areas that encompass all of these reasons: *Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities*—the five C's of foreign language education.

Communication is at the heart of second language study, whether the communication takes place face-to-face, in writing, or across centuries through the reading of literature.

Through the study of other languages, students gain a knowledge and understanding of the *cultures* that use that language and, in fact, cannot truly master the language until they have also mastered the cultural contexts in which the language occurs.

Learning languages provides *connections* to additional bodies of knowledge that may be unavailable to the monolingual English speaker.

Through *comparisons* and contrasts with the language being studied, students develop insight into the nature of language and the concept of culture and realize that there are multiple ways of viewing the world.

Together, these elements enable the student of languages to participate in multilingual *communities* at home and around the world in a variety of contexts and in culturally appropriate ways.

"Knowing how, when, and why to say what to whom"

All the linguistic and social knowledge required for effective human-to-human interaction is encompassed in those ten words. Formerly, most teaching in foreign language classrooms concentrated on the *how* (grammar) to say *what* (vocabulary). While these components of language are indeed crucial, the current organizing principle for foreign language study is *communication*, which also highlights the *why*, the *whom*, and the *when*. So, while grammar and vocabulary are essential tools for communication, it is the acquisition of the ability to communicate in meaningful and appropriate ways with users of other languages that is the ultimate goal of today's foreign language classroom.

The Five C's of Foreign Language Education

Communication

Cultures

Connections

Comparisons

Communities

Standards for Foreign Language Learning

Communication

*Communicate in Languages
Other Than English*

Standard 1.1: Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.

Standard 1.2: Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.

Standard 1.3: Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Cultures

*Gain Knowledge and
Understanding of Other Cultures*

Standard 2.1: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.

Standard 2.2: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

Connections

*Connect with Other Disciplines and
Acquire Information*

Standard 3.1: Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.

Standard 3.2: Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive view points that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures.

Comparisons

*Develop Insight into the Nature of
Language and Culture*

Standard 4.1: Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.

Standard 4.2: Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

Communities

*Participate in Multilingual Communities
at Home & Around the World*

Standard 5.1: Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting.

Standard 5.2: Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.