



D97 World Language Advisory Committee

World Languages Belief Statements – May 2018

Introduction: Over the course of this academic year, the World Language Advisory Committee (WLAC) dedicated itself to examining world language learning through the prism of the vision, pillars and values espoused by the superintendent and embraced by the D97 community. Working in "small group" and "committee of the whole" formats in multiple meetings, the WLAC crafted statements that reflect how world language learning advances these core values and supports the broader framework. These statements voice each Oak Park and District 97 core value followed by the world language belief that embodies it.

Meeting diverse needs of students and developing global citizens

World language learning incorporates the perspectives of all students, gives them powerful communication tools that open doors to the broader world, empowers them to see the rich mosaic of cultural and linguistic diversity in our community and the world through new eyes, and fosters tolerance, acceptance, empathy, understanding and active caring.

Equity & inclusion

All students have the ability to learn another language, and, when given that opportunity, benefit from rigorous world language instruction.

Focus on the whole child

A strong, well-integrated K-8 continuum of world language learning that is age appropriate, encourages questioning, exploration, and creativity through a high-quality, multidisciplinary and multisensory curriculum that is research-based, grounded in literacy, and is tied to the World Readiness Standards for Language Learning, provides a strong foundation for now and future academic success.

Every student is an empowered scholar

World language learning challenges and engages all students and provides added cognitive benefits that have a positive impact on academic success now and broader learning in the future.

Every student is a confident persistent achiever

Because mastering another language takes time and effort, it truly helps every student be a persistent achiever.

Every student is a known, nurtured, and celebrated learner

Because world language learning uses multiple intelligences methods, differentiates instruction, and engages students through movement, music and storytelling, it touches each and every learner in an individual way.

Creating critical thinkers and global citizens

World language learning, beginning with our youngest students, (tied to the ACTFL pre-K through college continuum) taps into developmental language acquisition principles and provides a strong sequence of learning that builds over time -- a vital component of communicative competence and bilingualism that provides a competitive edge in our globally interconnected world.

Community engagement and connections

Our students benefit from collaboration with other institutions and programs, and they in turn benefit the larger community. (ACTFL, OPPL, D200, Ethnic Festival/World Languages Day, etc.).

Importance of students' finding their passion and developing a lifelong love of learning

As is affirmed by countless stories of former students studying, living, working, teaching, and doing service abroad (such as Peace Corps), world language learning changes lives -- of our students and their families -- who then change the lives of others.