

2022 PSMLA Exemplary Program Awards SHOWCASE

In honor of the national “2005 Year of Languages”, PSMLA began an award program to recognize and honor Exemplary PA high school foreign language Programs (PEP). All PA high schools (public, parochial, private, charter) are encouraged to SHOWCASE their exemplary programs!

To participate, high schools must submit documented evidence that they meet the rigorous criteria established by PSMLA – with signatures of the school superintendent, principal, and supervisor or department chair to attest to the accuracy of the information submitted.

PEP criteria are detailed in the form of the 11 Indicators and the PEP Rubric (www.psmla.org). The PEP Rubric serves as a BLUEPRINT to assist schools by helping them to evaluate their world language programs and by providing concrete goals for improvement, as needed. The two-year awards may be earned at four levels: Globe, Bronze Globe, Silver Globe, and Golden Globe.

PSMLA believes that all PA students deserve exemplary foreign language programs! Therefore, PEP is *not* a competition; *every* school that meets and provides the required evidence receives a commensurate award.

NOTE: Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, 2019 Award Schools were given the option of extending their normal two year award for a third year. Many schools chose to do this and two schools opted to reapply.

On the following pages see:

- 2019—2023 PEP Schools by award categories
- Individual School Profiles alphabetically
- Rationale for the 11 PEP Program Indicators
- Notes to Parents and Administrators

2022 PSMLA Exemplary Program Awards



Golden Globe Awards

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, Villanova, 2005-23*

Gettysburg Area High School, Gettysburg Area S.D., Gettysburg, 2015-23

Merion Mercy Academy, Lower Merion S.D., Merion Station, 2015-23

North Hills Senior High School, North Hills S.D., Ross Twp., 2014-23

Owen J. Roberts High School, Owen J. Roberts S.D., Pottstown, 2013-23

Penncrest High School, Rosetree Media S.D., Media, 2012-23

Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, Colonial S.D., Plymouth Meeting, 2019-22

Sewickley Academy, Sewickley, 2022-2023

Strath Haven High School, Wallingford-Swarthmore S.D., 2022-2023



SILVER GLOBE AWARDS

Greater Latrobe Senior High School, Greater Latrobe S.D., Latrobe, 2019-23

Upper Merion Area High School, Upper Merion Area S.D., King of Prussia, 2019 -23



BRONZE GLOBE AWARDS



GLOBE AWARDS

Delaware Valley High School, Delaware Valley S.D., Milford, 2015-22

Titusville Area High School, Titusville Area S.D., Titusville, 2017-23

(*Years listed represent years of consecutive PEP Awards.)



Academy of Notre Dame de Namur

Villanova, PA

2005-2023

Amanda Klause, aklause@ndapa.org Phone: 610-687-0650 ext. 142

High percentage of world language enrollment	The Academy of Notre Dame offers language study to all students in Grades 6-12. Of the high school enrollment, 97.83% of students are studying one or more world languages. Of the total school enrollment, 98.37% of students are studying one or more world languages.
Languages in 4 year sequences	At Notre Dame sequential programs begin in grade 6 and continue through grade 12 in French, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish (Levels 4+). Latin, French, and Spanish are also offered at the AP level. All world language courses are year-long courses and meet in a modified block schedule 5times per 8-day cycle.
Retain students at higher levels	100% of current grade 9 students are enrolled in a WL class; 83.3% of current grade 12 students are enrolled in a WL class Level 4 or above.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	The Academy of Notre Dame has one section of level 5 and one section of AP in French, one section of AP Latin, and two sections of level 5 and one AP class in Spanish. Students are enrolled in all five classes.
Schedule classes that are one level per period 5 and one section	In all commonly taught World Language classes at the Academy of Notre Dame, classes are one level per period.
Extended sequence	The Academy of Notre Dame has an extended sequence of instruction in French, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish in Grades 6-12. All world language classes meet five times per 8-day cycle (modified block scheduling).
Implement Key Instructional Practices	95% of modern World Language teachers implement key instructional practices.
Administer standards-based performance assessment	The school administers standards-based assessments in all modern languages at four benchmarks. In all levels 1-4, a written assessment is given to all students. In 2021, students in all levels of Latin took the National Latin Exam, an assessment related to the Classical Standards.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	88% of World Language teachers attended at least 5 hours of in-house and 100% attended at least 5 hours of outside professional development activities.
Membership in professional orgs	100% of World Language teachers belong to a professional organization. Most belong to one or more.
Provide special program features	Notre Dame has sister schools in seven countries and engages with them in Global Classroom activities. Extracurricular activities are provided for World Language students during the activity period once per month. Notre Dame provided students with the opportunity to interact with a Guatemalan textiles display and meet an indigenous weaving practitioner.



Delaware Valley High School

Delaware Valley School District

Milford, PA 2015 - 2022

Gary Cotroneo, cotroneog@dvsd.org,
570 296-1850 ext. 7052.

Maintain high percentage of total world language enrollment	
Provide a variety of languages in a 4-year high school sequence	The Delaware Valley School District has a 5 year sequence beginning in 8 th grade. We have Mandarin Chinese (as a distance learning class) also, depending on enrollment.
Retain students a higher levels	30% of our students are retained in level 4 and AP
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	Delaware Valley High School has Advanced Placement Courses in French, German, and Spanish.
Schedule classes that are one level per period	We have no split-level classes.
Provide an extended sequence instruction in at least one commonly taught language	The Delaware Valley School District has full year daily language instruction in grades 8-12 in French, German, and Spanish and they are full year courses.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	Based on interviews and observations, 100% of the 6% high school teachers implement all four key instructional practices on average of 94% of the time.
Administer Standards-based performance assessment(s)	Using the College Board AP French, German, and Spanish Language and Culture Exams, Delaware Valley has a district-wide, standards-based
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	We have had and continue to have PLCs that cover(ed) a variety of topics pertaining to our department.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	<u>4 1/7</u> teachers are current members of professional organizations: PSMLA, ACTFL, AATSP, AATF, and AATG
Provide special program features	AP Spanish, and Spanish 4 students took a field trip on October 30, 2019 to El Repertorio Español in New York City to see the play "El Tiempo de las Mariposas." Delaware Valley High School has a Foreign Culture Club that meets every other Monday after school for 1 ½ hours



Gettysburg Area High School

Gettysburg Area School District

Gettysburg, PA

2015 -- 2023

Tarja Wilson , Twilson@gasd-pa.org

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High percentage of world language enrollment	Total school enrollment is 1049 students. The World Language enrollment is 409. 38% of total school enrollment is in a world language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	We have levels IV and V world language classes in French, German, and Spanish. Total school enrollment is 1049.
Retain students at higher levels	12% of 9th grade students continue to level 4 and above.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	At least one such class for every traditional language is offered.
Classes are one level per period	No multi-level classes are offered in modern languages.
Provide an extended	We have an extended sequence of instruction (5 years) in French, German, and Spanish. It begins in grade 8 in the Middle School.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	95% of world language teachers follow key instructional practices as described by HS principal Jeremy Lusk based on formal and informal observations.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	The district administers standards- based assessment in French, German, and Spanish at two levels. (1 & 2)
Yearly staff development	90% of WL teachers participated in at least 2 activities. Ms. Tosh was hired
Membership in professional organizations	100% of WL teachers maintain current membership in professional organizations.
Provide special program features	All: National Foreign Language Week & Holiday Market. Spanish: Dominican Republic Trip, German: German-American Day at McDaniel College, bi-annual Germany trip, French: Bi-annual trip to France.



Greater Latrobe Senior High School

Greater Latrobe School District

Latrobe, PA

2019 - 2023

Laura Smith, laura.smith@glsd.us 724-787-0545

Maintain high percentage of total world language enrollment	The student enrollment for World Language classes at Greater Latrobe Sr. High is 50 %
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	Greater Latrobe Sr. High has level IV and AP classes in Spanish, German and French with a total school enrollment of 1,156.
Retain students at higher levels	29.5% of students in a language in 9th grade continue to level 4 and above
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS	Greater Latrobe Sr. High has AP Spanish, AP French and AP German classes
Schedule classes that are one level per period	Greater Latrobe Sr. High has 1 split level class. (French II/III)
Provide an extended sequence instruction in at least one commonly taught language	We have French, German and Spanish beginning in grade 7 and continuing through grade 12
Implement Key Instructional Practices	Greater Latrobe high school teachers implement key instructional practices an average of 80%.
Administer Standards-based, performance assessment(s)	District-wide, standards-based assessment in Spanish, French & German is administered at two levels (level 2 and 3).
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	80% of World Language teachers participated in an outside professional World Language Activity. 80% of World Language teachers participated in a 2-day in-house workshop equivalent to over 5 hours
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	80% of world language teachers belong to a professional world language organization
Provide special program features	French and German Clubs prepared and presented cultural and language activities/ lessons to the district elementary students. Spanish 2 students participated in an E-Pal program with students from Valencia, Spain.



Merion Mercy Academy
Lower Merion School District
Merion Station, PA
2015-23

Ms. Patricia Nowlan, pnowlan@merion-mercy.com (610) 664-6655 x 332

High percentage of world language enrollment	Language study is offered to every student at Merion Mercy Academy. 83.1% of the student body is currently enrolled in a French, Latin or Spanish class.
Languages in 4 year sequences	At Merion Mercy Academy, we have a four-year sequence of French, Latin and Spanish. AP French, AP Spanish, and AP Latin are offered yearly and are considered a 4th level courses.
Retain students at higher levels	73.86% of students in 9th grade at Merion Mercy Academy continue to study language at level 4.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	In the 2021-2022 school year, Merion Mercy Academy has one section each of AP French, AP Latin, and AP Spanish.
Schedule one level per period	In the 2021-2022 school year, the Language Department at Merion Mercy Academy does not have any multi-level (split) classes for the three languages taught: French, Latin, and Spanish.
Extended sequence	We have an extended, four-year sequence of instruction for French, Latin, and Spanish. All language courses meet 4 out of the 5 days of the cycle. For 3 of these 5 days, classes meet for 40 minutes. For one of these 5 days, classes meet for an extended (block) 66 minutes period of instruction for an average of 37 class-minutes per day per cycle. AP Spanish, French and Latin courses are considered fourth level courses.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of World Language teachers implement key instructional practices at Merion Mercy Academy. This 100% indicates the number of teachers within the department that employ the 4 key instructional practices (5/5) in the observations of the Head of School and after conversation between the Head of School and Language Department Chairperson.
Administer standards-based performance assessment	Merion Mercy Academy world language teachers conduct Oral Proficiency Interviews (based on the ACTFL OPI Scale) with all Level 2 and 3 French and Spanish students. The National Latin Exam is administered to all Latin students in Levels 1-4.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	100% of world language teachers completed at least 5 hours of in-house professional development. 80% of world language teachers complete at least 5 hours of outside professional development.
Membership in professional orgs	5/5 (100%) of world language teachers belong to at least one professional world language organization, including (but not limited to) PSMLA, AATSP, AATF, and CAAS.
Provide special program features	We have many special program features at Merion Mercy Academy, including chapters of the National French, Latin, and Spanish Honor Societies and week-long, school-wide celebrations of each of the Department's target languages.



North Hills Senior High School

North Hills School District

North Hills, PA

2014 - 2023

Melissa Marangoni, marangonim@nhsd.net, 412-318-1402 x 2125

High percentage of world language enrollment	There are 1380 students enrolled at North Hills High School. 125 students are enrolled in vocational half day programs, leaving 1255 eligible students. There are 673 students enrolled in World Language classes.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	We have year-long classes in a four-year high school sequence in French, German, Latin, and Spanish. The total enrollment at North Hills High School is 1380 students.
Retain students at higher levels	There are 265 9 th grade students enrolled in World Language classes and 157 students enrolled in levels 4 and above at North Hills High School. $157/265 = 59\%$ retention rate
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	We have CHS courses in French, German, Latin, and Spanish. These are full-year courses worth 1 high school credit with the option to purchase college credits through the University of Pittsburgh.
Classes are one level per period	There are no split-level courses. All classes are scheduled as one level per period.
Provide an extended	We have level 1 for French, German, Latin, and Spanish in 8 th grade for 40 minutes per day 5 days per week. French, German, Latin, and Spanish classes in grades 9-12 are 40 minutes per day 5 days per week. Grades 9-12 language courses are worth 1 high school credit.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	All of the World Language teachers at North Hills High School implement the 4 key instructional practices 90-100% of the time
Administer Standards-based, performance assessment(s)	District-wide, standards-based assessment in all traditional language levels, non-traditional at 1 level using a rubric aligned to the ACTFL scale. Due to virtual / hybrid learning and restrictions during the 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 school years, we were unable to administer this common assessment and do not have current ratings.
Yearly staff development	100% of our World Language teachers participate in at least 5 hours of outside world language specific professional development and in-house professional world language activities.
Membership in professional organizations	100% of World Language teachers (8/8) at North Hills High School are current members of professional organizations.
Provide special program features	<p>Students may apply for admission into honor societies for French, German, Latin and Spanish. Students are inducted each year.</p> <p>French, German, Latin, and Spanish clubs are open to all students, and members actively participate in the school community.</p>



Owen J. Roberts High School

Owen J. Roberts School
District Pottstown, PA
2013-2023

Dr. Kathryn Soeder

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Maintain high percentage of total world language enrollment	Approximately 69.5% of the high school students are enrolled in a World Language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4-year high school sequence	The high school has French, Spanish, Latin, and German all in a four-year sequence. OJRHS has 1,779 students.
Retain students at higher levels	Approximately 80% of 9th graders enrolled in world language classes continue on to advanced levels.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	The OJRHS has AP Spanish, AP Latin, AP French, and AP German courses.
Schedule classes that are one level per period	Courses with multi-level classes are only in LCT languages (German and Latin)
Provide an extended sequence instruction in at least one commonly taught language	The sequential program for all world languages begins in grade 6.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	All world language teachers provide instruction using the Four Key Instructional Practices over 90% of the time.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	All World Language students have a standards-based assessment at two benchmark levels.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	50% of the world language teachers participated in outside professional development activities and all teachers participated in in-house professional development activities.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	Over 90% of the World Language teachers are members of a professional organization.
Provide special program features	We have several program features. Two of them include participation in the National Spanish Exams and having a chapter in the National Junior Classical League.



Penncrest High School
Rose Tree Media School District
Media, PA
2012-2023

Mrs. Kimberly Riviere, Email: kriviere@rtmsd.org Phone: 610- 627- 6294

Maintain high percentage of total world language	73% of Penncrest students are enrolled in a World Language course
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	French, Latin, Mandarin Chinese & Spanish are all offered in 4-year sequences
Retain students at higher levels	Over 76% of our students continue to level IV and AP
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS	We have AP Chinese, French & Spanish
Schedule classes that are one level per period	No split-level courses for traditional languages. There are split-level courses of Latin*3/4 & Chinese* IV/AP (*exempt)
Provide an extended sequence instruction in at least one commonly taught language	World Language instruction in French & Spanish begins in 6 th grade
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of high school teachers implement key instructional practices
Administer Standards-based performance assessment(s)	Chinese, French & Spanish students complete oral proficiency interviews that are scored using a common, ACTFL-based rubric. All Latin students take the National Latin Exam
Engage in yearly staff development on world language	89% of WL teachers completed a half-day in-house WL professional development workshop.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	100% of WL members maintain membership in at least 1 professional association.
Provide special program features	There are bi-annual exchange programs with France & Spain, as well as bi-annual immersion trips to Costa Rica, Quebec & China.



Plymouth Whitemarsh High School

Colonial School District

Plymouth Meeting, PA

2017-2022

Rich Madel rmadel@colonialsd.org 484-802-2695

High percentage of world language enrollment	70% of total enrolled students are also enrolled in a world language course.
Languages in 4 year sequences	In the 2020-21 school year, there are 268 students enrolled in levels 4, 5, 6, and/or AP in all language offered (i.e., Spanish, French, Latin).
Retain students at higher levels	88% of freshmen enrolled in a world language course are retained at higher levels.
AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	In the 2020-21 school year, there are students enrolled in at least level five and an AP course in each language offered at PWHS.
Schedule one level per period	In the 2020-21 school year, there are no language classes taught as split-level classes. Each class's curriculum is geared to only one level at a time.
Extended sequence	Language instruction begins with an exploratory experience in 6 th grade and continues with a proper full year of a student-selected language in grade 7.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of modern language teachers at PWHS employ the four key instructional practices on a consistent basis as per the Department's Supervising Principal.
Administer standards-based performance assessment	All modern languages share a common proficiency-based Integrated Performance Assessment in levels 1 (Novice Mid) and 3H (Intermediate Low) that addresses ACTFL standards for communicative language teaching. Both assessments are evaluated using a common performance based rubric. Latin students participate each year in the National Latin Exam at the end of levels 1 through AP.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	7/8 members of the department completed at least 5 hours of an outside conference. 1/8 members of the department participated in travel abroad with students. 8/8 members of the department participated in at least 5 hours of in-house
Membership in professional orgs	8/8 department members are active members of a world language-specific professional association.
Provide special program features	PWHS students participated in a Global Education and Outreach program in Guatemala from June 6-14, 2019. PWHS hosted an Oral Proficiency Contest on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 in which students from all over Montgomery County competed for recognition in various levels and languages. On November 22, 2020, the Spanish Club hosted a virtual cooking class during which students prepared Colombian <i>arepas</i> .



Sewickley Academy

Sewickley, PA

2022-2023

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High percentage of world language	95.5% of our high school students are enrolled in one or more world language courses
Languages in 4 year sequences	We have: Chinese: I, II, III, IV, V, AP, Independent Study; French: I, II, III, IV, V, AP Italian: I, II, III, IV, AP; Spanish: II, III, IV, V, AP Latin : IV, V, AP
Retain students at higher levels	Three consecutive years of the same language are required, so all 9th graders are enrolled in language. This year there are 54 9th graders (100%) enrolled in a language course. There are 105 students enrolled in an advanced level (IV or above) course. 46 out of 64 (71.8%) of current 12th graders are enrolled in an advanced level language course.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	AP level courses are offered for each language.
Schedule one level per period	Chinese V/AP and Italian IV/AP are multi-level courses. While multi-level, the curriculum taught is the same, with differentiation in activities and assessments depending on the level of the course for which each student is registered.
Extended sequence	Spanish instruction begins at the pre-K level. Lower School Spanish meets for 20 minutes, four times, during the eight-day cycle, with the exception of pre-K that meets only twice in the schedule. Middle School language classes meet four times during the eight-day cycle, at 65 minutes per period. In the Senior School, language classes meet four days out of the eight-day cycle for 3 periods at 65 minutes and one period at 80 minutes. French and Chinese start in the Middle School. Latin and Italian are only in the Senior School.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of teachers implement key instructional practices, based on classroom observations.
Administer standards-based performance assessment	Every student enrolled in an AP course is required to take the test in each of the languages offered at Sewickley Academy. Attached are copies of the Cultural Comparison/Presentation Section of the AP Exam for Chinese, Italian, French, and Spanish, as well as the rubrics used to grade these sections. This section of the exam meets ACTFL standards regarding presentational communication and both culture standards. Because Latin is a classical language the analytical essay part of the AP exam is attached, along with its rubric. This meets the ACTFL standards for language and content connections.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	100% of teachers participate in professional development.
Membership in professional orgs	100% of teachers have memberships to several professional organizations.
Provide special program features	Through our Global Studies program, students are encouraged to participate in and propose travel experiences, including to regions where the languages taught are spoken. The Asian Culture Club and French & Italian Cultures Club promote the celebrations of those cultures and languages outside of the classroom.



Strath Haven High School
Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Wallingford, PA
2022-2023

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Maintain high percentage of total world language enrollment	SHHS has a 4-semester requirement for WL, the only school in the area with such a requirement. 85 % of the total school population is enrolled in WL courses, but subtracting the IEP population of 209 students, 100% of the student body is enrolled in a WL course.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4-year high school sequence	SHHS offers 5 languages: Chinese 1-4, AP Chinese Language and Culture, French 1-4, AP French Language and Culture, Advanced French Studies, German 1-4, AP German Language and Culture, Advanced German Studies, Latin 1-4, AP Latin Literature, Spanish 1-4, AP Spanish Language and Culture, AP Spanish Literature;
Retain students at higher levels	In 9th grade, there are 212 WL students. In level 4, we have 199 WL students. There is a retention rate of 94 %.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	Students are currently enrolled in AP Chinese, AP French, AP German, AP Latin, and AP Spanish. In addition, we offer AP Spanish Literature, Advanced French Studies and Advanced German.
Schedule classes that are one level per	There aren't any mixed level courses in commonly taught languages. Latin IV and AP Latin are combined, but exempt as a less commonly taught language.
Provide an extended sequence instruction in at least one commonly taught language	Students choose Chinese, French, German or Spanish in 6 th grade. Students may start Latin beginning at the high school. In Chinese and Latin, we offer 5 levels (1-AP) and in French, German and Spanish we offer 6 levels (1-AP Lit/Advanced Studies).
Implement Key Instructional Practices	Through classroom observations based on the criteria it was determined that 75% of the time, teachers grades 9-12 use the key instructional practices on a daily basis since in level 1 and some CP classes, the TL is used 75% of the block.
Administer Standards-based performance assessment(s)	It is our department curricular objective to assess the 3 modes of communication using the common rubric tied to the ACTFL proficiency scale. In addition, we administer AP oral and written assessments tied to the national
Engage in yearly staff development on world language	70% (7/10) of World Language teachers completed at least 5 hours of outside professional development. 100% (10/10) of World Language teachers completed at least 5 hours of in-house professional development.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	90% World Language teachers belong to at least one professional organization.
Provide special program features	The World Languages Department offers a variety of special programs. For the 2015-2016 school year there were trips to Germany and Peru, as well as Exchanges with France and Germany. We offer national language exam contests in Chinese, French, German, Latin and Spanish. We celebrate National Foreign Language Week with a variety of activities.



Titusville High School

Titusville Area School District

Titusville, PA

2022- 2023

Sandralee Kozlowski (World Language Dept. Chair), skozlowski@gorockets.org, 814-827-2715 x1224

Maintain high percentage of total world language enrollment	37% of the students who currently attend Titusville High School are enrolled in a World Language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4-year high school sequence	French, Spanish and German courses are offered and taught at Titusville High School, which has a student population of 550.
Retain students at higher levels	50% of Spanish students are retained in Spanish (16/32)
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS	AP Spanish is taught currently at Titusville High School.
Schedule classes that are one level per period	There is only one multi-level World Language Class of French 3&4 this year at Titusville High School.
Provide an extended sequence instruction in at least one commonly taught language	The Spanish Program of study spans five years beginning in 8 th Grade.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	90% of the World Language Teachers follow key instructional practices as described.
Administer Standards-based, performance assessment(s)	A District-Wide standards-based assessment IPA is administered in Level 1 French and Spanish.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	One teacher attended two World Language conferences and all teachers attended In-House (In-Service) Professional Activities for ACT 48 Credit.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	Two of the three High School Teachers are current members of professional world language organizations: PSMLA and ACTFL / AATG / AATF.
Provide special program features	Students in all French and German classes communicate frequently with their Pen pals in France and Germany. Both French and Spanish students practiced their French and Spanish at local restaurants. Our school also welcomes foreign visitors.



Upper Merion Area High School
Upper Merion Area School District
King of Prussia, PA
2019 – 2023

Ms. Jennifer Sharp, jsharp@umasd.org, 610-205-6400

High percentage of world language enrollment	58% of the total school enrollment (674 of 1,159 students) is enrolled in a world language class at Upper Merion Area High School.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4-year high school sequence	Spanish, French, and German are offered through AP/Level 5 in our high school of 1,159 students.
Retain students at higher levels	188 students are enrolled in level 4 or higher. 239 ninth graders are enrolled in world language classes. This equates to .79 ratio of level 4 or higher students to ninth grade students in world language courses.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	Upper Merion has Advanced Placement courses in Spanish, French, and German.
Classes are one level per period	There are no multi-level (split) world language classes taught at Upper Merion.
Provide an extended	6 years (sequential program begins in grade 7) are offered in Spanish, French, and German. All language classes (grades 7-12) meet every school day.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	Based on classroom observations, 90% or more of modern language instruction is in line with the Four Key Instructional Practices.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	We use an interview protocol and associated rubric, correlated to ACTFL standards, across all 3 languages in levels 1-4. We use an AP rubric at level 5.
Yearly staff development	Five of seven teachers (71%) have evidence of professional development outside and inside the district related to the teaching of foreign languages.
Membership in professional organizations	Five of seven teachers (71%) are members of professional organizations related to the teaching of foreign languages.
Provide special program features	Our HS world language teachers organize and chaperone a biennial trip to a Spanish-speaking country, sponsor a trip to Quebec, and host a German exchange. We have honor societies for students in our Spanish, French, and German programs.

Indicators	RATIONALE
1. Maintain high percentage enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards are for all students, not just the academic/economic elite. All students should attain world language standards.
2. Provide choice of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. society is diverse. Programs should reflect this diversity within reason. Students may be more motivated to attain standards with a language of their choosing.
3. Retain students at higher levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemplary programs maintain student interest to continue their study Schools with high academic expectations for students will arrange student schedules to avoid conflicts that otherwise might prevent them from taking higher level classes.
4. AP, IB, level 5 classes, and/or College in the High School programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exemplary programs challenge students to reach higher levels of proficiency and encourage students to continue language study K-16
5. Schedule classes that are one level per period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time on task is critical for attainment of standards. Multi-level (or split) classes often result in students receiving a half a period.
6. Offer an extended sequence of instruction in at least one commonly taught language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 3 -5 five years are needed (in a 5 period per week standards-based program) for most students to attain an Intermediate Low level of speaking proficiency (ACTFL Scale)
<p>7. Implement key practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use the target language 90% in most classes in a comprehensible way engage students in pair and small group communicative activities encourage/require students to express their own meanings integrate culture into daily instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time on task is critical. Students must be immersed in the target language as much as possible in every class period. Teachers must speak the target language—but it is critical that students comprehend what is said. Without pair and small group activities in the target language, students have insufficient speaking practice to attain the Communication Standard Students will not attain proficiency if the main emphasis of instruction is grammar and if the only speaking that occurs is memorized. Cultural knowledge is essential to effective communication. Although there are many other best practices for effective world language instruction, we believe that these are key.
8. Administer standards-based, performance assessment that cuts across languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There can be no standards-based program without a valid, reliable assessment that cuts across languages to determine student progress in attaining standards. To be valid and reliable have outside verification of results using a common measurement tool such as the ACTFL Scale.
9. Engage in yearly staff development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As professionals, teachers must maintain and improve their knowledge and skills. Educators must model the concept of “life-long learning”.
10. Maintain membership in professional organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As professionals, teachers must stay abreast of the research in the field, standards implementation, new materials, etc. Through their membership, teachers support the work of their professional organizations.
11. Provide special program features beyond the classroom environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These special program features may support the national standards areas: Communications, Cultures, Connections , and Communities Special programs/projects/activities tend to increase student motivation and participation in world language programs

Note To Parents

Studies have shown that many people in the general public believe that schools, in general, are in trouble but that the school their children attend is ok—what is the basis for this perception? Parents have more and more choices about the schools their children will attend (public, private, parochial, charter) – how can they best make informed decisions? One indicator of a strong academic school is a strong world language program!

PEP criteria gives parents and students 11 concrete program indicators that may be used to evaluate a any high school foreign language program. PSMLA hopes that parents will work with school administrators, board members, and teachers to establish and maintain high quality, standards-based foreign language programs. **All students deserve high quality world language programs**—not just those who live in affluent neighborhoods or those who are sometime referred to as the “academic elite”.

Note to School Administrators, Board Members, Department Chairs, and Community Members

PSMLA hopes that all high schools across the Pennsylvania will be eligible to receive one of the four levels of PEP awards. Unfortunately, many schools do not meet the criteria. We hope that the 11 PEP program indicators will provide a blueprint for improvement in the coming years. While some of the program indicators may have some cost associated with them, many do not. Instead, they are indications of a strong academic program that focuses on best instructional practices (pedagogy) and national world language standards for all students. The No Child Left Behind legislation lists world language education as a “core subject”. PSMLA believes that **we all have a responsibility to make sure that no child is left behind when it comes to learning –and becoming proficient in—a foreign language.**

Disclaimer:

PSMLA is not responsible for any discrepancies that may appear between what is written here and the actual programs in the schools. Any questions about individual school programs should be addressed to the school.

An award is made for a period of two years, at which time a school may reapply. If school personnel believe they can attain a higher award, they may reapply after one year.