



September, 2023

Dear Superintendent, Principal, and/or Department Chair:

Does your high school(s) have an exemplary world language program? The Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) annually seeks to identify and publicly recognize excellent foreign language programs across the state. The *PSMLA Exemplary Program (PEP) Awards* are given to schools with well-designed, sequential programs that enable students to attain world language standards, as demonstrated by documentation of criteria described on the PSMLA PEP Rubric (enclosed).

PEP is not a competition.

All high schools (public, private, charter) that apply and meet the criteria will receive an award. They will be featured on the PSMLA website www.psmla.org and in our publications. Exemplary PA world language programs are recognized at four levels: PSMLA Golden Globe, Silver Globe, Bronze Globe, and Globe Awards.

To qualify, a high school must:

- meet or exceed a specified number of program indicators as noted in the PEP Application. All information must be true and accurate for the 2022-2023 and/or 2023-2024 school year as required by PEP instructions. All statistical enrollment data should reflect the current (2023-24) school year.
- have at least one PSMLA member on their staff for the year 2023-2024.
- complete the PEP Application Forms and submit the required supporting documentation which must be signed by the school superintendent, principal, and curriculum specialist/director (or department chair).
- mail the hardcopy application(postmarked) or submit the online application on or before **Saturday, February 17, 2024.**

The awards are in effect for three years and are renewable. If your high school does not meet the criteria for an award at this time, we hope that your district will use the 11 PEP Rubric Program Indicators as a blueprint to make needed improvements.

Notification of the awards will be made by March 30, 2024. Awardees will be recognized at the PSMLA Annual Conference/ACTFL Conference (Nov. 22-24, 2024).

We hope you will find the information included in this mailing helpful: 1) the PEP Rubric to see where your program stands, 2) a listing of current PEP Awardees, and 3) Foreign Language Education in the News.

Sincerely,

Mina Levenson

Past-President, Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association

For more information, please see the www.psmla.org, PEP Awards



2023 PSMLA Exemplary Program Awards



GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur, Villanova, 2022-23
Gettysburg Area High School, Gettysburg Area S.D., Gettysburg, 2022-23
Merion Mercy Academy, Merion Station, 2022-23
North Hills Senior High School, North Hills S.D., Ross Twp., 2022-23
Owen J. Roberts High School, Owen J. Roberts S.D., Pottstown, 2022-23
Parkland High School, Parkland S.D. Allentown, 2023-2024
Penncrest High School, Rose Tree Media S.D., Media, 2022-23
Pittsburgh Alderdice High School, Pittsburgh S.D., Pittsburgh, 2023-24
Plymouth Whitemarsh High School, Colonial S.D., Plymouth Meeting, 2023-24
Sewickley Academy, Sewickley, 2023-24
Strath Haven High School, Wallingford-Swarthmore S.D. 2022-23
Upper St. Clair High School, Upper St. Clair S.D., Upper St. Clair, 2023-24



SILVER GLOBE AWARDS

Greater Latrobe Senior High School, Greater Latrobe S.D., Latrobe, 2022-23
Upper Merion Area High School, Upper Merion Area S.D., King of Prussia, 2022-23



BRONZE GLOBE AWARDS

Dallastown Area High School, Dallastown S.D., Dallastown, 2023-24
Delaware Valley High School, Delaware Valley S.D., Milford, 2023-24



GLOBE AWARDS

Boiling Springs High School, South Middleton S.D., Boiling Springs, 2023-24
Highlands High School, Highlands S.D. Natrona Heights, 2023-24
Lower Moreland High School, Lower Moreland S.D., Huntingdon Valley, 2023-24
Deer Lakes High School, Deer Lakes S.D., Cheswick, 2023-24
Titusville Area High School, Titusville Area S.D., Titusville, 2022-23

Advice from current PEP Awardees

- After meeting with the new superintendent and him learning that we only offer WL 6-12, it has opened the potential...to re-starting a K-6 exploratory world language program.

- The PEP award sheds light on the department for our Board of School Directors. If no other time does, at least for the PEP award, we acknowledge the department at a public Board meeting and explain the application and assessment process.

Why You Should Study a Foreign Language? (quotes from Ithaca College)

- “The study of foreign languages enhances listening skills and memory, increases analytical abilities, and builds aptitude in problem solving and working with abstract concepts. It has been shown to enhance the study of other subjects. Abilities in math and English increase, and creativity grows.”
- “The study of foreign language is a distinct advantage in the professional world. Job candidates who are proficient in more than one language are extremely valuable and have a competitive edge in the U.S. economy, where a large proportion of jobs involve work with immigrants and/or are the result of trade with foreign countries. Students who have studied foreign language have more job opportunities available to them both at home and abroad, in an increasingly global society.....Language study opens doors in countless fields, including business, marketing, government, medicine, technology, law, and the military.”