
World Language Standards

The Background:

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(8) authorizes the State Board of Education to “set policies governing all academic standards and courses of study in the public schools.” Additionally, State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.03(1) calls for the State Board to adopt standards for each subject area, grades K-12. The approved standards are to be the basis for planning instructional programs in each local school system.

State Board Standards Review Policy 3.209 requires that the State Board review all sets of academic standards at a minimum of every eight years. The Tennessee Department of Education conducted stakeholder outreach during the 2023-24 school year to recruit subject matter experts from the following disciplines within world languages:

- Classical Languages
 - Latin
- Modern Languages
 - All other world languages including American Sign Language

These subject matter experts convened in March 2024 to recommend revisions to the world language standards. The subject matter experts included representation of elementary to high school educators, district instructional supervisors, and adjunct professors. Districts also submitted input to guide these recommendations and best practices from professional organizations were utilized during the revision process.

This item includes revisions to the current standards document and guidance for the classical and modern languages. Changes include expanded proficiency language and guidance, expanded performance guidelines, expanded language on information related to heritage speakers, added guidance language about the Seal of Biliteracy, and added information about how world language supports English language arts literacy skills through skill transference.

The Department collected public feedback between first and final reading, ending on June 28, 2024. One individual submitted feedback. Based on the feedback, a new header was added to the Middle and High School Performance Targets for Heritage Language Learner Performance Levels to ensure clarity within the document. There are no other edits on final reading to the standards.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule, or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Engagement and Accountability outlined in the Master Plan by ensuring high-quality standards that provide opportunity to improve outcomes and ensuring transparency through public feedback.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends approval of this item on final reading. The State Board staff concurs with this recommendation.