

¿POR QUÉ?
 なぜ
 ПОЧЕМУ?
 为什么
 PERCHÈ?
 POURQUOI?
 WARUM?
Why?

- ★ Over 50 different languages are spoken in Nebraska
- ★ Nebraska exporters sell to almost 180 countries worldwide each year (NE Dept of Economics, 2001)
- ★ Over \$2.7 billion in exports in 2003 (NE Dept of Economics, 2001)
- ★ Nebraska increasingly will be integrated in the highly competitive global economy. NE economy continues to shift from goods to services production. (Workforce Associates, Inc.)
- ★ Improve test scores in the areas of math and language
- ★ Gain an advantage in the global economy
- ★ Develop cultural understanding



Pending
Rule 10

Elementary Schools:
 004.02B World Languages. By the 2007-08 school year, the curriculum includes introductory experiences in world languages. This may include integrating international themes in other subject areas; the use of school, community, and international resources; and /or specific instruction in other languages.

– Rule 10, School Accreditation



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Elementary World Languages



NEBRASKA
 Department of
EDUCATION

Connect Your School's Dots With World Languages

Raising All Achievement While Closing the Achievement Gap

Increase Life Experiences

In What Works in Schools (2003), Marzano states "that huge variations in vocabulary size exist between students from different backgrounds. Those students with high access to a variety of experiences have large vocabularies, those with low access do not." Schools must provide additional life experiences to insure all students have high access. World Language instruction provides a wide variety of experiences and language that will enhance students' vocabulary. World language builds vocabulary in all languages. Increased vocabulary improves both writing and reading comprehension.

Activate Prior Knowledge Through Student's Cultural Filter

Belinda Williams in Closing the Achievement Gap (2003) states that closing the achievement gap depends on the teacher "to provide instruction which is sensitive to the impact of culture and experience on cognition, communication, motivation, language development and behavior." Williams emphasizes that teachers must activate prior knowledge through the students' cultural and life experiences. World Language instruction helps students learn about their own and other's culture and life experiences.



Advantages

School Improvement Plan

Many Nebraska School Improvement Plans contain a vocabulary development goal, a reading comprehension goal, or a writing goal. World Language instruction improves reading and writing in both languages. It has been shown that a child's understanding of his native language is enhanced by learning a foreign one. The child becomes more conscious and deliberate in using words as tools of his thought and expressive means for his ideas (Vygotsky, 1986).

Student Behavior

Positive social interactions are dependent on student behaviors and cultural knowledge and skills. World Language Instruction strives to develop culturally competent students through developing understanding of diverse cultures and languages. Carpenter and Torney (1974) suggest that exposure to a foreign language serves as a means of helping children move toward intercultural competency. The awareness of a global community can be enhanced when children have the opportunity to experience involvement with another culture through a foreign language.

Content Based Instruction

World Language Instruction can provide the opportunity for reinforcement of school-wide literacy initiatives and skills. Every skill and outcome that is important to society is introduced through elementary school curriculum. The lists of curriculum requirements in almost every state attest to the importance of reading, math, social studies, science, music, art, and physical education. Not until world languages become a secure part of the elementary school curriculum will language learning begin to meet the needs and challenges of the twenty-first century (Donoghue, 1968).

How?

Program Models

A variety of model programs can be used in implementing an elementary world language program. Typical models are referenced below.

Curriculum Integration and Media



FLEX (Foreign Language Exploratory)



Content-Related FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School)



Content-Based FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School)



Immersion