

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proposed Revised Foreign Language Standards of Learning and Proposed Revised English Language Proficiency Standards of Learning

Proposed Revised Foreign Language Standards of Learning

The Standards of Quality require the Board of Education to review the Standards of Learning on a regular schedule. The Foreign Language Standards of Learning are due for review in 2007. Public hearings are required as a part of the review process. In addition to the public hearing on November 29, a hearing will be held in Fairfax on December 5, 2006. The proposed standards are outlined as follows:

The Foreign Language Standards of Learning identify essential content, processes, and skills for levels I through IV of the French, German, Latin, Spanish, and Modern Foreign Languages Standards of Learning. The introduction includes explanations of the goals and organizing strands.

- **Goals**

Foreign Language Standards of Learning for French, German, Latin, Spanish, and Modern Foreign Languages are organized around the goals of Effective Communication, Enhanced Cultural Understanding, Expanded Access to Information, and Increased Global Perspective.

- **Strands**

The content strands support the goals and remain constant as organizing principles for all levels. The strands for French, German, Spanish, and Modern Foreign Languages reflect Person-to-Person Communication; Listening and Reading for Understanding; Oral and Written Presentation; Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products; Making Connections through Language; Cultural and Linguistic Comparisons; and Communication across Communities. The strands for Latin are similar, with Reading for Understanding; Using Oral and Written Language for Understanding; Cultural Perspectives, Practices, and Products; Making Connections through Language; Cultural and Linguistic Comparisons; and Communication across Communities. Each strand is followed by one or two standards.

The Foreign Language Standards reflect end-of-course benchmarks for levels I through IV of French, German, Latin, and Spanish, as well as for generic Modern Foreign Language standards that can be used for additional languages, including those with non-Roman alphabets. Separate standards exist for:

French: French I, French II, French III, French IV

German: German I, German II, German III, German IV

Latin: Latin I, Latin II, Latin III, Latin IV

Spanish: Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III, Spanish IV

Modern Foreign Languages: Level I, Level II, Level III, Level IV

Proposed Revised English Language Proficiency Standards of Learning

Academic content standards for English language proficiency were adopted by the Board of Education in November 2002. A review and possible revision were listed as an action item in the Board of Education's Comprehensive Plan for 2005-2010. As a result of the action item in the comprehensive plan, at its meeting on October 26, 2005, the Board of Education adopted a schedule for review and revision to the English Language Proficiency Standards of Learning.

The English Language Proficiency Standards of Learning support the English language development of limited English proficient (LEP) students. The goal of these standards is to provide the foundation that will enable LEP students to be successful in the English Standards of Learning and in other content areas. This foundation is essential because LEP students are learning English as another language.

An overview of the proposed revisions is attached.