

**Learning Standards for  
Languages Other Than English**

Revised Edition•  
April 1996•

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**Regents of The University**

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# Acknowledgments

In addition to the people recognized in the Preliminary Draft Framework for Languages Other Than English , we are grateful to the many teachers from throughout New York State who contributed samples of student work

# Introduction

This revised edition of the Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English incorporates changes to the content standards and performance indicators based on extensive review by the public. It should be considered a working document; as educational practice improves, these standards will continually be revised.

New in this edition are samples of student work, along with teachers' comments on the work. The examples are intended to provide some ideas of tasks that support attainment of the performance standards. They are not models of excellence. Rather, they vary in degree of achievement. Some are at the "acceptable" level; others are at a "more proficient" level. It is important to remember that these are just suggestions of ways that students can demonstrate progress toward achieving the standards.

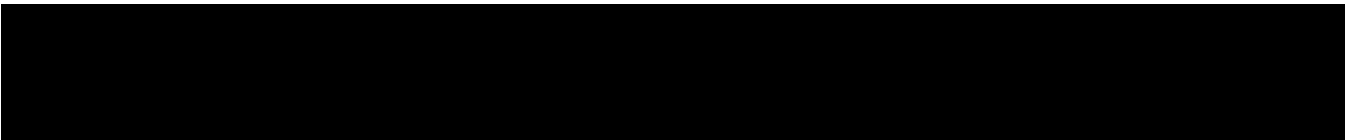
The State Education Department will continue to collect and publish samples of student work. As teachers become more familiar with the standards and students become more proficient in meeting them, the level of the performance standards and content standards will continue to rise.

Taken together, the content standards and the performance standards define the learning standards for students in languages other than English.

The Board of Regents recognizes the diversity of students in New York State, including students with disabilities, students with limited English proficiency, gifted students, and educationally disadvantaged students, and has made a strong commitment to integrating the education of all students into the total school program. The standards in the framework apply to all students, regardless of their experiential background, capabilities, developmental and learning differences, interests, or ambitions. A classroom typically includes students with a wide range of abilities who may pursue multiple pathways to learn effectively, participate meaningfully, and work toward attaining the curricular standards. Students with diverse learning needs may need accommodations or adaptations of instructional strategies and materials to enhance their learning and/or adjust for their learning capabilities.

## **A Note About Checkpoints**

Learning a language other than English may begin at any time; therefore, performance standards are keyed to checkpoints, which may be measured at any point in the K-12 continuum, instead of elementary, intermediate, or commencement levels, which have traditionally implied specific grade levels. The achievement of learning standards at any checkpoint varies according to the age when students begin language study, the frequency and length of the lessons, the students' previous experience with second language learning, and their motivation. Checkpoint A is considered to be a way station en route to proficiency. Checkpoint B corresponds to the level of performance that all students should demonstrate in order to obtain a high school diploma. Checkpoint C proficiency corresponds to a more advanced level of performance that can be attained on an elective basis.



# Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English at Three Levels

Standard 1: Students will be able to use a language other than English for communication.

Standard 2: Students will develop cross-cultural skills and understandings.

# Standard 1N Communication Skills

Checkpoint A

## Modern Languages

**1. Listening and speaking are primary communicative goals in modern language learning. These skills are used for the purposes of socializing, providing and acquiring information, expressing personal feelings and opinions, and getting others to adopt a course of action.**

**Students can:**

- **comprehend language consisting of simple vocabulary and structures in face-to-face conversation with peers and familiar adults**
- **comprehend the main idea of more extended conversations with some unfamiliar vocabulary and structures as well as cognates of English words**
- **call upon repetition, rephrasing, and nonverbal cues to derive or convey meaning from a language other than English**
- **use appropriate strategies to initiate and engage in simple conversations with more fluent or native speakers of the same age group, familiar adults, and providers of common public services.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• exchange simple greetings and answer questions about self and family
- s• listen to radio broadcasts and answer questions about main ideas
- s• speak in complete sentences, using present tense and, occasionally, markers for past and future tenses
- s• ask for information or directions
- s• discuss classroom activities with a peer
- s• use appropriate body language and gestures to supplement the spoken word.

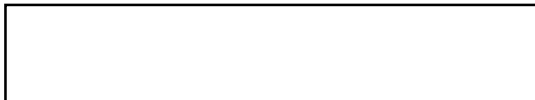
**2. Reading and writing are used in languages other than English for the purposes of socializing, providing and acquiring information, expressing personal feelings and opinions, and getting others to adopt a course of action.**

**Students can:**

- **understand the main idea and some details of simple informative materials written for native speakers**
- **compose short, informal notes and messages to exchange information with members of the target culture.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• obtain information from materials written in the target language including short notes, brief messages, posters, printed advertisements, illustrated simple texts from newspapers and magazines
- s• guess the meaning of more complex written material, using target





**Students will be able to use a language other than English for communication.**

## Latin

**1. Reading is the most important skill that students acquire in learning Latin for it is the vehicle through which communication with the ancient world is possible, and it is also the tool, along with writing, through which students become more aware of their own and other languages.**

**Students can:**

- **read and understand simple connected materials written in Latin**
- **write simple responses to oral, visual, or written stimuli**
- **demonstrate an awareness of the vocabulary, grammar, derivation, and word structure of English.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• read original texts and simple exercises to derive meaning
- s• recognize the general principles of the language and understand the grammar in its original context
- s• write responses to a reading or visual/oral presentation
- s• transcribe material read aloud by the teacher
- s• express in written English the meaning of simple Latin passages•
- s• demonstrate an awareness of Latin roots in English
- s• compare and contrast English and Latin grammar
- s•

# Standard 1N Communication Skills

Checkpoint A

## American Sign Language

### 1. Visual-gestural skills provide a means of communication with Deaf people in the context of the Deaf culture.

#### Students can:

- use receptive skills to comprehend simple statements and questions in standard dialect
- express basic needs and compose statements, questions and short messages to signers of the same age group and to familiar adults
- initiate and engage in simple face-to-face conversations.

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• carry on informal, interactive, face-to-face conversations with familiar individuals who are deaf
- s• understand age-appropriate narratives, including stories, folktales, and other expressions of the Deaf culture
- s• use repetition and rephrasing to sustain comprehension with more skilled signers
- s• use gestures to compose simple statements and questions
- s• use appropriate vocabulary and structure when communicating with native ASL signers
- s• make their messages comprehensible to fluent signers through repetition and rephrasing.

Key ideas are identified by numbers (1).  
Performance indicators are identified by bullets (•).  
Sample tasks are identified by triangles (s ).

**NOTE: American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual-gestural language, devoid of voice, and it does not have a written form. It is governed by sign production, registers, and nonmanual grammar using facial and body signals. The emphasis on communication is applied in situations characterized as receptive, expressive, and interactive .**



# Standard 1N Communication Skills

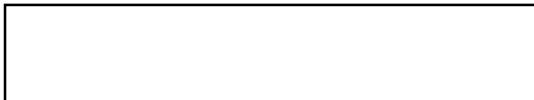
Checkpoint B

## Modern Languages

**1. Listening and speaking are primary communicative goals in modern language learning. These skills are used for the purposes of socializing, providing and acquiring information, expressing personal feelings and opinions, and getting others to adopt a course of action.**

**Students can:**

- **comprehend messages and short conversations when listening to peers, familiar adults, and providers of public services either in face-to-face interactions or on the telephone**
- **understand the main idea and some discrete information in television, radio, or live presentations**
- **initiate and sustain conversations, face to face or on the phone, with native-speaking or more fluent individuals**
- **select vocabulary appropriate to a range of topics, employ simple and complex sentences in present, past, and future time frames, and express details and nuances by using appropriate modifiers**
- **exhibit spontaneity in their interactions, particularly when the topic is familiar, but often rely on familiar utterances**
- **view, understand, and participate in the target culture and discuss the culture to sustain conversations**



**Students will be able to use a language other than English for communication.**

## **Latin**

**1. Reading is the most important skill that students acquire in learning Latin for it is the vehicle through which communication with the ancient world is possible, and it is also the tool, along with writing, through which students become more aware of their own and other languages.**

**Students can:**

- **understand composed Latin and passages adapted from Latin authors**
- **respond in simple written Latin and in English to questions based on composed Latin and on passages adapted from Latin authors**
- **demonstrate a knowledge of basic Latin vocabulary and**



**Students will be able to use a language other than English for communication.**

## **Native American Languages**

**1. Communication in Native languages takes place primarily to share expression of ideas, thoughts, and feelings to preserve Native cultural ideology.**

**Students can:**

- **comprehend messages and short conversations when listening to Native speakers; repetition may be necessary for full understanding**
- **initiate and sustain conversations with some hesitation and difficulty in pronunciation in short and familiar communicative situations**
- **produce an extended communication through a series of short connected utterances, using repetition as needed**
- **comprehend the meaning of myths and legends told to them repeatedly by Native speakers.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- relate an incident, using common verbal structures accurately, although errors occur in more complex patterns
- engage in a simulated classroom dialogue
- respond in complete sentences to questions from Native speakers
- make an oral presentation about a traditional festival
- compare similar myths from differing groups of Native people.

**2. Writing systems, and therefore reading, are recent introductions to Native languages and are used primarily to encourage functional communication in the listening and speaking skills.**

**Students can:**

- **understand simple narrative and descriptive authentic materials and edited texts within a familiar context**
- **read Native texts or stories aloud with accurate pronunciation and attention to dialogue**
- **write short communications that are comprehensible to Native speakers used to dealing with students. Difficulties still occur when expressing more complex thoughts.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- read and comprehend passages with familiar sentence patterns
- acquire essential points of information from simple narrative and descriptive writing
- guess meaning of writing on topics of special interest by using context clues
- write simple notes, letters, and short reports
- use elementary vocabulary and commonly encountered structures accurately
- express themselves in present, future, and past time frames.

**NOTE: The primary purpose of instruction in Native languages is to teach children how to speak Native languages and to ensure that these languages do not become extinct. These languages have been historically in the oral tradition, and there is no intent to move away from that tradition. It is only in the past 20 years, with the introduction of Native American language programs in the schools, that a writing system has been developed. Each Nation will have to decide to what extent a writing system will be used in instruction.**

# Standard 1N Communication Skills

Checkpoint C

## Modern Languages

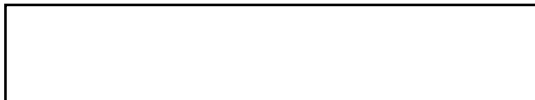
**1. Listening and speaking are primary communicative goals in modern language learning. These skills are used for the purposes of socializing, providing and acquiring information, expressing personal feelings and opinions, and getting others to adopt a course of action.**

**Students can:**

- **understand standard speech delivered in most authentic settings**
- **understand the main ideas and significant relevant details of extended discussions or presentations, and of recorded songs, feature programs on radio and television, movies, and other media designed for use by native speakers.**
- **draw on a wide range of language forms, vocabulary, idioms, and structures learned in class as well as those acquired through independent exposure to the language**
- **comprehend subtler, nuanced details of meaning with some repetition and rephrasing**
- **engage in extended discussions with native or fluent speakers on a broad range of topics that extend beyond their daily lives and are of general interest to the target cultures.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- **detect emotional overtones and understand inferences in personal communication**





## Students will be able to use a language other than English for communication.

### Latin

**1. Reading is the most important skill that students acquire in learning Latin for it is the vehicle through which communication with the ancient world is possible, and it is also the tool, along with writing, through which students become more aware of their own and other languages.**

**Students can:**

- **read and understand selected authors of prose and poetry with some assistance**
- **express in English the general and specific meaning of Latin passages of prose or poetry, assisted by glosses, and can demonstrate a controlled, but increasing, ability to write Latin**
- **read aloud Latin prose and poetry with attention to features such as the correct metrical structure**
- **demonstrate an expanding knowledge of Latin vocabulary and language structures, and an increased English vocabulary based on it.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- distinguish main ideas from lesser ones to advance understanding
- recognize some features of an author's style
- analyze Latin grammar and language patterns in context
- use the aids and resources available to readers of authentic texts of the major authors of Latin prose and poetry
- demonstrate an ability to read authentic Latin prose and poetry, while using appropriate resources
- demonstrate a knowledge of Latin and English grammar through comparison and contrast and through applied use in reading Latin and in reading, listening, speaking, and writing English
- derive meaning from Latin passages based on an increased knowledge of vocabulary and word-building skills
- use knowledge of Latin vocabulary to determine the meaning of English derivations.

**2. Listening and speaking support the reading skills in Latin.**

**Students can:**

- **recognize and appreciate the linguistic and artistic qualities of oral Latin prose and poetry when read aloud**
- **read aloud Latin prose and poetry with attention to features such as the correct metrical structure.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- identify some effects of metrical structure and diction
- distinguish between classical and ecclesiastical pronunciation
- read with appropriate attention to metrical structure, phrase grouping, voice inflection, and expression
- respond appropriately in Latin to classroom situations and readings of prose and poetry.

# Standard 1N Communication Skills

Checkpoint C

## American Sign Language

**1. Visual-gestural skills provide a means of communication with Deaf people in the context of the Deaf culture.**

**Students can:**

- **understand a wide range of registers delivered with some repetition and paraphrasing by fluent ASL signers, comprehension may be hindered when the topics are unfamiliar or when more advanced signed communication is being used**
- **organize presentations on everyday topics**
- **express complex ideas with confidence.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• determine the essential content of face-to-face discussions or presentations, of signed feature films, and of signed programs on television and videotape
- s• understand communications on a wide range of topics, and on issues of concern globally and in Deaf culture
- s• recognize learned vocabulary and structures as well as those acquired through independent exposure to the language
- s• demonstrate good control of the morphology of the language and of the most frequently used syntactic structures, although errors may still occur
- s• use culturally appropriate behaviors regularly.

**2. Interactive communication is possible with Deaf people through the use of signs.**

**Students can:**

- **converse with confidence**
- **engage in extended discourse with native ASL signers on a broad range of topics including those of general interest to the Deaf culture.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• use appropriate learned vocabulary and structures
- s• employ simple and complex sentences and all conversational tenses to communicate in all time frames
- s• use culturally appropriate behaviors of the Deaf community.

Key ideas are identified by numbers (1).  
Performance indicators are identified by bullets (•).  
Sample tasks are identified by triangles (s ).

**NOTE: American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual-gestural language, devoid of voice, and it does not have a written form. It is governed by sign production, registers, and nonmanual grammar using facial and body signals. The emphasis on communication is applied in situations characterized as receptive, expressive, and interactive .**

**Students will be able to use a language other than English for communication.**

## **Native American Languages**

**1. Communication in Native languages takes place primarily to share expression of ideas, thoughts, and feelings to preserve Native cultural ideology.**

**Students can:**

- **understand speech delivered with some repetitions and rewording by competent Native speakers**
- **understand the essential points of discussion or presentations on familiar topics in lengthy messages and presentations**
- **handle most communicative situations with confidence but may need help with complicated, unfamiliar topics.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• use elementary constructions accurately
- s• demonstrate some limited control of complex structures
- s• produce extended communications consisting of simple and more complex utterances.

**2. Writing systems, and therefore reading, are recent introductions to Native languages and are used primarily to encourage functional communication in the listening and speaking skills.**

**Students can:**

- **understand most factual information in nontechnical prose as well as some informative and descriptive texts on topics related to areas of special interest**
- **compose unified and organized texts on everyday topics.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• read excerpts from literature for pleasure
- s• distinguish main ideas and analyze materials for the general public
- s• detect the overall tone and intent of a text
- s• demonstrate command of sufficient vocabulary to express oneself clearly
- s• express complex ideas sequentially with simple language
- s• write in a style and form comprehensible to Native speakers.

**NOTE: The primary purpose of instruction in Native languages is to teach children how to speak Native languages and to ensure that these languages do not become extinct. These languages have been historically in the oral tradition, and there is no intent to move away from that tradition. It is only in the past 20 years, with the introduction of Native American language programs in the schools, that a writing system has been developed. Each Nation will have to decide to what extent a writing system will be used in instruction.**

# Standard 2N Cultural Understanding

Checkpoint A

## Modern Languages

## Latin

**1. Effective communication involves meanings that go beyond words and require an understanding of perceptions, gestures, folklore, and family and community dynamics. All of these elements can affect whether and how well a message is received.**

**Students can:**

- **use some key cultural traits of the societies in which the target language is spoken.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• recognize cultural patterns and traditions of the target cultures in the target language;
- s• understand the cultural implications of the spoken language and of the dynamics of social interaction; and
- s• correctly use and interpret cultural manifestations, such as gestures accompanying greeting and leave taking and the appropriate distance to maintain.

Key ideas are identified by numbers (1).

**Students will develop cross-cultural skills and understandings.**

## **American Sign Language**

**1. Key cultural traits exist within the Deaf culture, and cultural patterns are learned through the use of American Sign Language.**

**Students can:**

- **use key cultural traits that exist in settings where American Sign Language is used**
- **become aware of cultural patterns, learned through the use of American Sign Language, that characterize the Deaf culture.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• **correctly use and interpret cultural manifestations for communication about daily activities**
- s• **are aware of the implications when a culture exists within a larger culture.**

## **Native American Languages**

**1. Culture is transmitted and preserved through knowledge about the lives of Native American people and the sharing of their cultural ideology.**

**Students can:**

- **demonstrate an awareness of Native culture**
- **recognize the names of cultural items and their uses**
- **understand the history and cultural symbols of the people**
- **demonstrate knowledge about the clan system.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• **visit and talk with local cultures, or visit a reservation**
- s• **study wampum belts that record history**
- s• **listen to folktales and myths.**

# Standard 2N Cultural Understanding

Checkpoint B

## Modern Languages

**1. Effective communication involves meanings that go beyond words and require an understanding of perceptions, gestures, folklore, and family and community dynamics. All of these elements can affect whether and how well a message is received.**

**Students can:**

- exhibit more comprehensive knowledge of cultural traits and patterns
- draw comparisons between societies
- recognize that there are important linguistic and cultural variations among groups that speak the same target language
- understand how words, body language, rituals, and social interactions influence communication.

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• role play daily activities such as ordering in a restaurant or shopping, using authentic materials from target language• cultures•
- s• write in their own language an essay about cultural similarities between their country and a country in which the target language is spoken
- s• describe linguistic variations including accent, idioms, and styles between two cultures that speak the same language•
- s• simulate an encounter between two friends in a target language culture, using appropriate social conventions, gestures, and body language.

## Latin

**1. Latin acquisition provides the cultural context for learning about the ancient world and its people. From this basis students can compare and contrast antiquity and the present and thoughtfully contemplate the future.**

**Students can:**

- demonstrate increased knowledge of Greco-Roman myths and legends, daily life and history, art, and architecture, and of their influence on later civilizations
- read culturally authentic passages of Latin adapted from Latin authors
- apply knowledge of Latin literature, authors, and techniques of style to world literary traditions.

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• develop a portfolio of modern architecture, labeling those• aspects derived from the Greco-Roman tradition•
- s• read sections of poetry by Ovid, identifying recurring themes, forms, and issues
- s• write a paper in English showing how the literary techniques of a Latin author influence a modern author.

Key ideas are identified by numbers (1).  
Performance indicators are identified by bullets (•).  
Sample tasks are identified by triangles (s ).

**Students will develop cross-cultural skills and understandings.**

## American Sign Language

**1. Key cultural traits exist within the Deaf culture, and cultural patterns are learned through the use of American Sign Language.**

**Students can:**

- **demonstrate more comprehensive knowledge of the Deaf culture**
- **draw comparisons about different societies both within the Deaf culture and other cultures**
- **recognize important linguistic and cultural variations among different groups within the culture and in the various states and Canadian provinces where American Sign Language is used.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• participate in a discussion about cultural patterns learned through the use of American Sign Language
- s• understand how daily life in the Deaf culture requires making adjustments to living in a hearing world
- s• are able to identify regional differences in the signed language
- s• role play daily activities incorporating appropriate cultural behaviors
- s• can be understood by a fluent signer of ASL using repetition and rephrasing.

## Native American Languages

**1. Culture is transmitted and preserved through knowledge about the lives of Native American people and the sharing of their cultural ideology.**

**Students can:**

- **demonstrate increased knowledge of Native culture through their myths and legends, art and architecture, and literature and government**
- **recognize how Native cultural ideas exist within modern America.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• recreate a legend through an authentic dance
- s• write a paper concerning the continuing influence of Native values on modern environmental issues.

# Standard 2NCultural Understanding

Checkpoint C

Modern Languages

Latin

**1. Effective communication involves meanings that go beyond words and require an understanding of perceptions, gestures, folklore, and family and**



**Students will develop cross-cultural skills and understandings.**

## American Sign Language

**1. Key cultural traits exist within the Deaf culture, and cultural patterns are learned through the use of American Sign Language.**

**Students can:**

- **produce behaviors that are consistent with the Deaf culture**
- **reflect a wide variety of different contexts within the Deaf culture.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• use appropriate visual gestures and body language to enrich the signed language
- s• maintain conversation with individuals who are fluent signers of ASL•
- s observe and understand a signed play or performance.•

## Native American Languages

**1. Culture is transmitted and preserved through knowledge about the lives of Native American people and the sharing of their cultural ideology.**

**Students can:**

- **demonstrate a through knowledge of the Native culture**
- **distinguish between various subgroups**
- **relate their knowledge and understanding of the culture to other Native American groups.**

This is evident, for example, when students:

- s• discuss issues of community importance with tribal elders
- s• demonstrate an understanding of the protocols of expected• behavior•
- s• prepare a report comparing daily life of the Iroquois to that of the Lakota.



# Samples of Student Work

The samples of student work included in this section are intended to begin the process of articulating the performance standards at each level of achievement. This collection is not yet adequate for that purpose in either numbers or scope of examples. Nor are these samples presented as models of excellence. They vary in degree of achievement. Some are "acceptable"; others "more proficient." All are meant to provide examples of the kind of work students might produce to demonstrate progress toward the standard.

The primary goal of second language study is, through the communicative method of instruction, to enable students to communicate face-to-face with native speakers of a language other than English. The listening and speaking skills acquired by students are difficult to showcase in a written format such as this Framework. It is expected that in the near future this document will be available on a CDROM. The visual and sound components of this technology will provide more authentic samples of a student achievement in all language areas, and will make it possible to feature student work in languages that have either little or no written form such as Native American languages and American Sign Language.

## A Request to Teachers

**The New York State Education Department continues to collect samples of student work for inclusion in future revisions of this document. Samples are needed in all areas of second language study, and the need is especially urgent for student samples in the less commonly taught languages such as Asian and African. If you would like to contribute, we would be happy to send you an instruction sheet and the forms that must accompany each submission. Please contact:**

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Room 671 EBA  
New York State Education Department  
Albany, New York 12234**

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