

WORLD LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STANDARDS According to the NJDOE

Language Proficiency Levels

Unlike other New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards areas, the world languages standard is benchmarked by proficiency levels, rather than grade levels. The development of these proficiency levels was informed by the *American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners* (ACTFL, 1998), the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines—Speaking* (ACTFL, 1999), and the *ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines—Writing* (ACTFL, 2001). The levels are fully defined in the World Languages Performance Level Descriptors Table and are summarily reflected in the following proficiency statements:

- **Novice-Mid Level:** *In a program that meets 40 times a year at each grade level, proficiency at this level is expected by the end of 8th grade. However, Milltown seeks for students to reach this level of proficiency by the end of 4th grade.*

Students communicate *using memorized words and phrases* to talk about familiar topics related to school, home, and the community.

- **Novice-High Level:** *Proficiency at this level is expected by the end of 12th grade. However, Milltown seeks for students to reach this level of proficiency by the end of 8th grade.*

Students communicate *using words, lists, and simple sentences* to ask and answer questions, to handle simple transactions related to everyday life, and to talk about subject matter studied in other classes.

Students may advance to proficiency levels below sooner, given the amount of consistent, cumulative instructional hours throughout their academic career.

- **Intermediate-Low Level:** Students communicate *using simple sentences* to ask and answer questions, to handle simple transactions related to everyday life, and to talk about subject matter studied in other classes.

- **Intermediate-Mid Level:** Students communicate *using strings of sentences* to ask and answer questions, to handle simple transactions related to everyday life, and to talk about subject matter studied in other classes.

- **Intermediate-High Level:** Students communicate *using connected sentences and paragraphs* to handle complicated situations on a wide-range of topics.

- **Advanced-Low Level:** Students communicate *using paragraph-level discourse* to handle complicated situations on a wide-range of topics.