

# A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



Intermediate-Low  
Proficiency Range



## Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for world languages and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in as they progress through the intermediate-low proficiency range of language development.

## Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are ultimately successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas, emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

## World Languages for Elementary and Secondary Schools (K-12)

The world language standards create a roadmap to guide students in the process of learning a new language and understanding diverse cultural perspectives, as well as developing insights into their own language and culture. The standards reflect a performance-based discipline which emphasizes communication skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) in a new language to navigate real-life situations. Students use the newly acquired language while making connections with other academic disciplines and comparisons of cultural practices and products, preparing them to participate more fully in the global community and the international marketplace.

## Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Anna Huffman, Principal Standards Specialist at 720-626-2052, [Huffman\\_a@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Huffman_a@cde.state.co.us)



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At the end of this level,  
students can.....



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## Language Proficiency Range Levels

Language proficiency refers to the degree of skill with which a person can use a language to understand, speak, read, write, and listen in real-life situations. Colorado's standards provide guidance for the introduction of a new language (novice-low) through the minimum proficiency range deemed postsecondary and workforce ready (intermediate-mid). Progression through levels of proficiency is influenced by program design (grade levels, competency-based programs, time for language instruction) and a student's individual rate of acquiring language.

## World Languages Learning Expectations for Intermediate-Low Proficiency Range

### Interpersonal Mode (Speaking and Writing)

Participate in conversations on a number of familiar topics using simple sentences; handle short interactions in everyday situations by asking and answering simple questions.

### Interpretive Mode (Listening, Reading, and Viewing)

Identify the main idea in short, simple messages, presentations, and texts on familiar topics; explain the main idea of simple conversations.

### Presentational Mode (Speaking and Writing)

Orally present and write brief information on most familiar topics using a series of simple sentences.

## Throughout the Intermediate-Low Proficiency Range, you may find students... *(using the target language to...)*

- Ask and answer questions and carry on discussions related to various subjects (history, math, science, art, business, language, or literature).
- Write a draft of a presentation that will be delivered orally, as a written document, and/or as a multimedia project.
- Compare how different time-frames are expressed in the target language and their native language.
- Compare attitudes, cultural perspectives, and/ or reactions to current events of global importance in countries where the target language is spoken.
- Describe the main idea and significant details about cultural practices or products (found in newspapers, magazines, websites, TV, radio, video, and other print and online sources).