

A blue rectangular graphic with white and yellow text. At the top center is the year '2025' in white. Below it, the words 'PSMLA Exemplary Program' are written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. 'PSMLA' and 'Program' are in white, while 'Exemplary' is in yellow. Below this, the words 'Awards' and 'SHOWCASE' are written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, both in yellow.

# 2025 PSMLA Exemplary Program Awards SHOWCASE

In honor of the national “2005 Year of Languages”, PSMLA began an award program to recognize and honor Exemplary PA high school foreign language Programs (PEP). All PA high schools (public, parochial, private, charter) are encouraged to SHOWCASE their exemplary programs!

To participate, high schools must submit documented evidence that they meet the rigorous criteria established by PSMLA – with signatures of the school superintendent, principal, and supervisor or department chair to attest to the accuracy of the information submitted.

PEP criteria are detailed in the form of the 11 Indicators and the PEP Rubric ([www.psmla.org](http://www.psmla.org)). The PEP Rubric serves as a BLUEPRINT to assist schools by helping them to evaluate their world language programs and by providing concrete goals for improvement, as needed. The two-year awards may be earned at four levels: Globe, Bronze Globe, Silver Globe, and Golden Globe.

PSMLA believes that all PA students deserve exemplary foreign language programs! Therefore, PEP is *not* a competition; *every* school that meets and provides the required evidence receives a commensurate award.

On the following pages see:

- 2025—2027 PEP Schools by award categories
- Individual School Profiles alphabetically
- Rationale for the 11 PEP Program Indicators
- Note to Parents and Administrators

# 2025 PSMLA Exemplary Program Awards



## GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

**Academy of Notre Dame de Namur**, Villanova, 2024-2026  
**Cocalico High School**, Cocalico SD., Denver PA, 2025-2027  
**Derry Area High School**, Derry Area S.D., Derry, PA 2024-2026  
**Downingtown West High School**, Downingtown Area SD., Downingtown 2025-2027  
**Merion Mercy Academy**, Merion Station, 2024-2026  
**North Hills Senior High School**, North Hills S.D., Ross Twp., 2024-2026  
**Owen J. Roberts High School**, Owen J. Roberts S.D., Pottstown, 2025-2027  
**Penncrest High School**, Rose Tree Media S.D., Media, 2024-2026  
**Pittsburgh Allderdice High School**, Pittsburgh S.D., Pittsburgh, 2025-2027  
**Plymouth Whitemarsh High School**, Colonial S.D., Plymouth Meeting, 2025-2027



## SILVER GLOBE AWARDS

**Delaware Valley High School**, Delaware Valley SD., Milford, 2025-2027  
**Gettysburg Area High School**, Gettysburg Area S.D., Gettysburg, 2024-2026  
**Greater Latrobe Senior High School**, Greater Latrobe S.D., Latrobe, 2024-2026  
**Northampton Area High School**, Northampton Area SD., Northampton, 2025-2027  
**State College High School**, State College Area S.D., State College, PA 2024-2026



## BRONZE GLOBE AWARDS

**Norwin High School**, Norwin S.D., Irwin, PA 2024-2026  
**Ridgway Area High School**, Ridgway Area SD., Ridgway, PA 2025-2027  
**Titusville Area High School**, Titusville Area S.D., Titusville, 2024-2026



## GLOBE AWARDS

**Franklin Regional High School**, Franklin Regional SD., Murrysville, 2025-2027  
**Indiana Area Senior High School**, Indiana Area SD., Indiana, PA 2025-2027



# Academy of Notre Dame de Namur

Villanova, PA

2024-2026

Ms. Amanda Klause, [aklause@ndapa.org](mailto:aklause@ndapa.org) Phone: 610-687-0650, ext. 142

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	The Academy of Notre Dame offers language study to all students in Grades 6-12. Of the high school enrollment, 96.45% of students are studying one or more world languages. Of the total school enrollment, 97.23% of students are studying one or more world languages.
Provide a variety of languages in 4 year high school sequence	At Notre Dame sequential programs begin in grade 6 and continue through grade 12 in French, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish (Levels 4 +). Latin, French and Spanish are also offered at the AP level. All world language courses are yearlong courses and meet in a modified block schedule 5 times per 8-day cycle.
Retain students at higher levels	100% of current grade 9 students are enrolled in a WL class; 81.65% of current grade 12 students are enrolled in a WL class Level 4 or above.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	The Academy of Notre Dame has one section of level 5 and one section of AP in French, one section of AP Latin, one section of Honors Mandarin 5, and two sections of level 5 and one AP class in Spanish. Students are enrolled in all of these classes
Schedule classes that are one level per period	In all Commonly taught language classes at the Academy of Notre Dame, classes are one level per period.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	The Academy of Notre Dame has an extended sequence of instruction in French, Latin, Mandarin and Spanish in Grades 6-12. All world language classes meet five times per 8-day cycle (modified block scheduling).
Implement Key Instructional Practices	90% of modern World Language teachers implement key practices.
Administer Standards-based performance assessment	The school administers standards-based assessments in all modern languages at four benchmarks. In all levels 1-4, a written assessment is given to all students. In 2023 students in all levels of Latin took the National Latin Exam, an assessment related to the Classical Standards.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	88% of World Language teachers attended at least 5 hours in-house and at least 5 hours of outside professional development activities.
Maintain membership in professional organizations	100% of World Language teachers belong to at least one professional organization. Most belong to two or more.
Provide special program features	Notre Dame has sister schools in seven countries and engages with them in symposia and pen pal conversations. Extracurricular activities are provided for World Language students in 4 different clubs during the activity period once per month. Notre Dame provided students with the opportunity to travel to Spain and Portugal.



# Cocalico High School

Cocalico School District, Denver, PA

2025-2027

Ms. Tabettha Haldeman [Tabetha\\_Haldeman@cocalico.org](mailto:Tabetha_Haldeman@cocalico.org), 717-336-1403

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	46% of the total high school enrollment is enrolled in a world language class during the 24-25 school year.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	We have Spanish and German level 4 classes. Our calculated student enrollment is 658.
Retain students at higher levels	20% of ninth grade students continue to level 4 and above. 60 out of our 93 students continue to a level 4 and above, for a total of 65%.
Participate in AP, IB level 5, and/or CIS program	We have AP Spanish and AP German. We do not have French.
Schedule classes that are one level per period	During the 24-25 school year, there are no split classes.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	The German and Spanish classes span 5 years, beginning in grade 8.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of high school language teachers meet the Four Key Instructional Practices.
Administer Standards-based performance assessment(s)	The District administers a SOPI-like assessment through cultural comparison presentations in AP Spanish and AP German.
Engage in yearly staff development on world languages topics	100% of teachers completed in-house professional world language activities, through curriculum work, textbook adoptions and monthly world language PLC's. 70% have completed travel abroad experiences.
Maintain Membership in professional organizations	100% of high school world language teachers belong to a professional organization.
Provide special program features	We continue to be a part of the Global Scholars Program, since 2019, have the Seal of Biliteracy certificate and traveled with students to Germany and Costa Rica in 2023 and 2024, hosting students in 2024.



# Delaware Valley High School

## Delaware Valley School District

Milford, PA

2025 – 2027

Mr. Gary Cotroneo, cotroneog@dvsd.org, 570-296-1850 ext 7052

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	37 % of high school students are enrolled in a world language.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	The Delaware Valley School District had a 5-year sequence beginning in 8th grade for all languages taught.
Retain students at higher levels	36% of our students are retained.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	Delaware Valley High School has Advanced Placement courses in French and Spanish.
Classes are one level per period	Delaware Valley High School has no split-level classes in any language.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	The Delaware Valley School District has full year daily language instruction in grades 8-12 in French, German and Spanish.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	Based on interviews and observations, 100% of the six high school teachers at Delaware Valley High School implement all 4 key instructional practices on average 86% of the time.
Administer Standards-based performance assessment(s)	Delaware Valley has a District-wide Standards-based assessment in all languages taught at one language level (AP French, AP German, and AP Spanish).
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	All WL teachers have had 2 PLC meetings equaling 6 hours to plan, track and evaluate the 24-25 school year.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	48% of the language department is enrolled in a professional organization.
Provide special program features	AP Spanish and Spanish 4 students took a field trip to New York city on October 16, 2024 to see the play “El Tiempo de las Mariposas.” AP French, French 4, and French 3 students took a field trip to MOMA in NYC on December 12, 2024.



# Derry Area High School

## Derry Area School District

Derry, PA

2024 – 2026

Ms. Michelle Schweinberg, [mSchweinberg@dasd.us](mailto:mSchweinberg@dasd.us), 724-433-0452

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	35% of total school enrollment is enrolled in a world language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	2 languages for 441 students in a 4-year sequence.
Retain students at higher levels	35% of students in a language in 9 th grade continue to level 4 & above
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	AP Spanish and French offered and attended
Classes are one level per period	All World Language classes are scheduled as one level per period.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	5 years of 2 languages starting in 8 th grade.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of WL teachers follow key instructional practices.
Administer Standards- based Performance assessment(s)	District-wide, standards-based assessment in all languages taught, at 1 language level.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	100% of teachers engage in staff development: PSMLA conference 2023 & 7+ hours in-house workshops.
Maintain Membership in Professional organizations	100% of teachers belong to PSMLA
Provide special program features	3 outside of classroom activities: Mexican & Colombian restaurant, Pitt International room trip, Spanish & French Honor Societies, Global Scholars



# Downingtown West High School

## Downingtown Area School District

Downingtown, PA

2025 – 2027

Ms. Susan Tancredi, stancredi@dasd.org 610-202-0873

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	57% of total school enrollment is enrolled in a foreign language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	DWHS has 1800 students and 4 Foreign Language choices.
Retain students at higher levels	DWHS has 51% of our 9th grade students continue to level 4 +.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	We have AP Language and Culture for French, German and Spanish.
Classes are one level per period	We do not have multi-level (split) World Language classes in our commonly taught languages.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	We have Expeditions in our 6th and 7th grade that meet the 2Xsa cycle. French, German, and Spanish 1 begin in 8th grade.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	DWHS consistently creates immersive and engaging language-learning environments by using the target language 90% or more during instructional time.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	Our students take the AP language and culture exam in French, German, and Spanish.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	80% of our WL teachers participate in a National Conference or International travel with students. 100% of our teachers participate in multiple school-day in-house professional development work.
Maintain current membership in Professional organizations	94% of WL teachers belong to a professional world language organization.
Provide special program features	France and Switzerland trip (June 2024). Zoom with Christopher Sanchez (Philadelphia pitcher) in Spanish from Dominican Republic. We have French, German, and Spanish National Honor Societies that participate in monthly meetings and countless philanthropic activities (clothes donation, reading books in other languages at a local elementary school, etc).



# Franklin Regional High School

## Franklin Regional School District

Murrysville, PA

2025 – 2027

Mr. Jesse Carnevali, [jcarnevali@franklinregional.k-12.pa.us](mailto:jcarnevali@franklinregional.k-12.pa.us), 814-341-8034

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	52% of total school enrollment is enrolled in a world language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	
Retain students at higher levels	36% of 9 th graders enrolled in a language class also enroll in level 4 and above.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	We have Spanish 5/AP, French 5/AP, and Levels 3 through 5 of French and Spanish are CIS.
Classes are one level per period	All language classes are one level per period.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	We begin Spanish and French instruction starting in 6th grade for a half year (one quarter is Spanish, one quarter is French), 7 th grade for a half year (students choose French or Spanish), and 8 th grade for a full year in the chosen language.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of world language teachers follow key instructional practices as described.
Administer Standards-based performance assessment(s)	All students in level 5 take the AP Language and Culture Exam at the end of the school year. Also, a proficiency-based rubric is used at each level for authentic speaking assessments (SOPI midterms) across levels.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	90% of world language teachers attended one 7 hour in-house workshops focused on proficiency-based curriculum development, functional language and “can do” statements through backward design.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	60% of world language teachers at the district (high school and middle school) belong to at least one professional world language organization.
Provide special program features	We certify students for the PA & Global Seals of Biliteracy, participate in Global Scholars, and take students to Costa Rica.





# Gettysburg Area High School

## Gettysburg Area School District

Gettysburg, PA

2024 – 2026

Ms. Tarja Wilson, [twilson@gettysburg.k-12.pa.us](mailto:twilson@gettysburg.k-12.pa.us), 717-334-6254

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	Total school enrollment is 1076 students. The World Language enrollment is 425. 39% are in world language classes.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	We have level IV world language classes in French, German, and Spanish and level V world language class in German. Total school enrollment is 1076.
Retain students at higher levels	150 9th grade students are enrolled in world language classes. 27 students are enrolled in level 4 or above. 13% of 9th grade students continue to level 4 and above
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	We have AP classes for Spanish, French, German, and Level 5 for French and German.
Classes are one level per period	No multi-level classes are taught. German and French 4 and 5 are combined and one curriculum is taught, then flipped with a second curriculum next year
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	We have an extended sequence of instruction (5 years) in French, German, and Spanish AP. It begins in grade 8 in Middle School.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	95% of world language teachers follow key instructional practices as described by HS principal Jeremy Lusk based on formal and informal observations.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	The district administers a SOPI-like assessment to all level 1 & 2 students.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	92% of WL teachers participated in at least one full day, local, state, or national conference.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	100% of WL teachers maintain current membership in professional organizations.
Provide special program features	Spanish: Peru Trip and Salsa on the Square. German: Germany trip, German & French: Holocaust Museum in DC. ALL: Annual World Languages Week with international menu, school-wide cultural activities, and Holiday Market.



# Greater Latrobe Senior High School

## Greater Latrobe School District

Latrobe, PA

2024 – 2026

Ms. Laura Smith, [laura.smith@glisd.us](mailto:laura.smith@glisd.us), 724-787-0545

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	The student enrollment for World Language classes at Greater Latrobe Sr. High is 47.4 %
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	Greater Latrobe Sr. High has level IV and AP classes in Spanish, German and French with a total school enrollment of 1,146.
Retain students at higher levels	22.5% of students in a language in 9th grade continue to level 4 and above
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	Greater Latrobe Sr. High has AP Spanish, AP French and AP German classes
Classes are one level per period	Greater Latrobe Sr. High school does not have any multi-level World language classes.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	We have French, German and Spanish beginning in grade 7 and continuing through grade 12
Implement Key Instructional Practices	Greater Latrobe high school teachers implement key instructional practices an average of 70-79%.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	District-wide, standards-based assessment is administered in Ap French, AP German, and AP Spanish.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	60% of World Language teachers participated in an outside professional World Language Activity. 100% of World Language Teachers participated in in-house professional development.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	60% of world language teachers belong to a professional world language organization
Provide special program features	World Language Club and Global Scholar students prepared cultural activities, dishes, and hosted after school events for the students. Students from French classes traveled to New Orleans, participated in cultural activities, and learned about French influences in New Orleans.



# Indiana Area Senior High School

## Indiana Area School District

Indiana, PA

2025 – 2027

Mr. Brian Henning, [bhenninger@iasd.cc](mailto:bhenninger@iasd.cc). 724- 463-8562

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	35.7% of Indiana Area High School students are enrolled in World Language classes. Of the 921 students in our school, 329 are enrolled in either Spanish, French or German.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	Indiana Area High School offers French, German and Spanish in a 4 year high school sequence.
Retain students at higher levels	Of the 159 ninth grade students enrolled in a foreign language class, 51 (32%) continue to level 4 and above.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	All of our languages have one level V or AP. French and German both have a level V while Spanish has an AP course.
Classes are one level per period	We do not have a multi-level (split) World Language class for any commonly taught language..
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	Our full-year language classes begin in 8th grade, allowing students 5 sequential years of study in either French, German, or Spanish.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	90% of WL teachers follow key instructional practices. The percentage was obtained based on yearly walk-through and formal observations reports completed by the principal.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	We do not meet this indicator at this time.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	50% of Indiana Area World Language teachers participated in outside Professional development. One attended the 2024 ACTFL Convention while another member participated as a Fulbright DAI partner teacher.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	75% of Indiana Area World Language teachers (3/3) are members of either ACTFL or PSMLA.
Provide special program features	Spanish students travelled to Costa Rica for 10 days in March of 2024.



# Merion Mercy Academy

Merion Station, PA

2024 – 2026

Ms. Patricia Nowlan, pnowlan@merion-mercy.com (610) 664-6655 x 332

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	Language study is offered to every student at Merion Mercy Academy. 82.5% of the student body is currently enrolled in a French, Latin or Spanish class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	At Merion Mercy Academy, we have a four-year sequence of French, Latin and Spanish. AP French, AP Spanish, and AP Latin are offered yearly and are considered 4th level courses.
Retain students at higher levels	58% of students in 9 th grade at Merion Mercy Academy continue to study language at level 4.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	In the 2023-2024 school year, Merion Mercy Academy has one section each of AP French, AP Latin, and AP Spanish.
Classes are one level per period	In the 2023-2024 school year, the Language Department at Merion Mercy Academy does not have any multi-level (split) classes for the three languages taught: French, Latin, and Spanish.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	We have an extended, four-year sequence of instruction for French, Latin, and Spanish. All language courses meet 4 out of the 5 days of the cycle. For 3 of these 5 days, classes meet for 39 minutes. For one of these 5 days, classes meet for an extended (block) 66 minutes period of instruction for an average of 36.6 class-minutes per day per cycle. AP Spanish, French and Latin courses are considered fourth level courses.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of World Language teachers implement key instructional practices at Merion Mercy Academy. This 100% indicates the number of teachers within the department that employ the 4 key instructional practices (5/5) in the observations of the Head of School and after conversation between the Head of School and Language Department Chairperson.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	Merion Mercy Academy world language teachers conduct Oral Proficiency Interviews (based on the ACTFL OPI Scale) with all Level 2 and 3 French and Spanish students. The National Latin Exam is administered to all Latin students in Levels 1-4.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	100% of world language teachers completed at least 5 hours of in-house professional development. 100% of world language teachers completed at least 5 hours of outside professional development.
Membership in professional organizations	5/5 (100%) of world language teachers belong to at least one professional world language organization, including (but not limited to) PSMLA, AATSP, AATF, and CAAS.
Provide special program features	We have many special program features at Merion Mercy Academy, including but not limited to Spanish Club; opportunities for travel abroad sponsored by the Language Department; and a Christmas Caroling Competition posted by the Department.



# North Hills Senior High School

## North Hills School District

North Hills, PA

2024 – 2026

Ms. Melissa Marangoni, marangonim@nhsd.net, 412-318-1402 x 2125

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	58% of eligible students are enrolled in a WL class at North Hills
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	Four languages (French, German, Latin, Spanish) offered in a 4-year sequence at the high school level.
Retain students at higher levels	62% of students enrolled in a language in grade 9 continue to levels 4 & above.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	French, German, Latin, & Spanish have 2 levels of CHS courses for years 4 & 5.
Classes are one level per period	All World Language classes are scheduled as one level per period.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	We have level 1 in 8th grade continuing through CHS 2 in grade 12 for a 5-year sequence.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	All of the World Language teachers at North Hills High School implement the 4 key instructional practices 90-100% of the time
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	We have a district-wide proficiency assessment that is administered to students at two levels in French, German, and Spanish and at one level in Latin.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	100% of our World Language teachers participate in at least 5 hours of outside world language specific professional development and in-house professional world language activities.
Membership in professional organizations	100% of World Language teachers (8/8) at North Hills High School are current members of professional organizations.
Provide special program features	Our special program features include travel opportunities, French, German, Latin, and Spanish Honor Societies and extracurricular clubs for all 4 languages.



# Northampton Area High School

## Northampton School District

Northampton, PA

2025 – 2027

Ms. April Krempaski, krempasa@nasdschools.org 610-262-7812

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	58% of students are enrolled in World Language classes at Northampton Area High School.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	We have German IV, Spanish IV, French IV, Honors German IV, and Honors Spanish IV.
Retain students at higher levels	25% of students enrolled in a language in grade 9 continue to levels 4 and above.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	We have AP Spanish Language and Culture and AP German Language and Culture.
Classes are one level per period	We have no multi-level world language classes.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	We have a five-year sequence in German and Spanish.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	85% of language teachers at Northampton Area HS employ the four Key Instructional Practices on a consistent basis as per the Supervising Principal.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	The Honors IV & AP French, German, and Spanish classes are assessed with a culminating proficiency-based cultural comparison using a common rubric of the scoring guidelines from the AP exam and are aligned to the ACTFL Standards.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	9/9 members of the department completed 11 hours of in-house professional development. 7/9 teachers participated in outside professional WL activities. 78% have attended both inside and outside WL activities.
Maintain current membership in professional organizations	8/9 members of the department maintain membership in professional Organizations, including PSMLA, ACTFL and AATG.
Provide special program features	Seniors were awarded the Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy and Global Seal of Biliteracy in French, German & Spanish. Students in the German program hosted German students & traveled to their partners. The German Club met throughout the year after school and competed at Penn State U.



# Norwin High School

## Norwin School District

Irwin, PA

2024 – 2026

Ms. Danielle Llerena, [llerena.danielle@norwinsd.org](mailto:llerena.danielle@norwinsd.org) 412-596-3646

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	57.57% of total school enrollment is enrolled in a world language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	French, German, and Spanish are offered in a 4-year sequence. The district has a total enrollment of 1,716 students at NHS.
Retain students at higher levels	17.12% of world language students are retained from levels 1-4
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	The district has a level 4 College in High School (CHS) course in French, German, and Spanish
Classes are one level per period	No world language classes at NSD are multi-level or split
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	The district has an extended sequence of 4 levels for each of our three languages, beginning in 9 <sup>th</sup> grade.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	85% of teachers implement Key Instructional Practices
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	The district administers a standards- based assessment in all languages at level 4.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	43% of WL teachers participated in an outside professional WL Activity. 57% of WL teachers participated in an in-house webinar equivalent to 4 hours
Membership in professional organizations	100% of world language teachers belong to PSMLA
Provide special program features	Norwin High School offers the Global Scholars Program and has recognized 61 Global Scholar graduates since the program was started in 2018. The French Club went to Italy and France the summer of 2023. High school students teach at the elementary schools.



# Owen J. Roberts High School

## Owen J. Roberts School District

Pottstown, PA

2025 – 2027

Dr. Kathryn Soeder Email: [ksoeder@ojrsd.net](mailto:ksoeder@ojrsd.net) Phone: (610) 469-5589

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	Approximately 67.8% of the high school students are enrolled in a World Language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	The high school has French, Spanish, Latin, and German all in a four-year sequence. OJRHS has 1,804 students.
Retain students at higher levels	Approximately 78.9% of 9th graders enrolled in world language classes continue on to advanced levels.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	The OJRHS has AP Spanish, AP Latin, AP French, and AP German courses. We have level 5 for Spanish and French.
Classes are one level per period	There are no split-classes except for the exempt CP French 4/CP French 5 course . For this course, there is one curriculum taught and the course alternates each year.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	All languages have a 6 year sequence with students beginning in grade 7.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	All world language teachers provide instruction using the Four Key Instructional Practices over 90% of the time.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	All World Language students have a standards-based assessment at two benchmark levels.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	58% of the world language teachers participated in outside professional development activities and 75% of teachers participated in in-house professional development activities.
Membership in professional organizations	100% of the World Language teachers are members of a professional organization.
Provide special program features	We have several program features. These include participation in the National Spanish Exams, participation in the National Latin Exams, and participation in the National Junior Classical League.





**Penncrest High School**  
**Rose Tree Media School District**  
**Media, PA**  
**2024-2026**

Mrs. Kimberly Riviere, Email: [kriviere@rtmsd.org](mailto:kriviere@rtmsd.org) Phone: 610- 627- 6294

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	72% of Penncrest students are enrolled in a World Language course
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	French, Latin, Mandarin Chinese & Spanish are all offered in 4 year sequences
Retain students at higher levels	Over 54% of our students continue to level IV and AP
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	We have AP Chinese, French & Spanish
Classes are one level per period	No split-level courses for traditional languages. There are split level courses of Latin*3/4 & Chinese* IV/AP (*exempt)
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	World Language instruction in French & Spanish begins in 6th grade
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of high school teachers implement key instructional practices
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	Chinese, French & Spanish students complete oral proficiency interviews that are scored using a common, ACTFL-based rubric. All Latin students take the National Latin Exam
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	100% of WL teachers completed both a full-day in-house and WL professional development workshop.
Membership in professional organizations	100% of WL members maintain membership in at least 1 professional association.
Provide special program features	We have a vibrant Global Scholars program, the PA Seal of Biliteracy and National French Week celebrations.



# Pittsburgh Alderdice High School

Pittsburgh School District

Pittsburgh, PA

2025 – 2027

Ms. Jennifer Felton [jfelton1@pghschools.org](mailto:jfelton1@pghschools.org), (412) 529-4800

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	73% of total school enrollment is enrolled in a foreign language class
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	Spanish, French, Japanese, and Portuguese are offered. 1,001 students out of 1,371 are enrolled in a world language class.
Retain students at higher levels	56% of students continue with 4 consecutive years in high school.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	The district offers levels 5 and 6 classes in Spanish and French.
Classes are one level per period	There are no multi-level (split) world language classes per school in commonly taught languages.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	The Spanish and French programs extend over 13 years, starting in kindergarten.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	90% of world language teachers follow key instructional practices as described.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	District-wide, standards-based assessments are administered at two levels in all languages taught.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	75%of world language teachers participate in at least one full day local, state, or national world language conference per year, in addition, 100% participate in at least one in-house world language specific workshop (equivalent to a 5 hour day).
Membership in professional organizations	75% of world language teachers belong to a professional world language organization.
Provide special program features	World language programs outside of class include the Japanese Speech Competition, monthly Spanish Club, and Global Seal of Biliteracy with the support of CIEE Abroad Programs.



# Plymouth Whitemarsh High School

Colonial School District

Plymouth Meeting, PA

2025 – 2027

Rich Madel, [rmadel@colonialsd.org](mailto:rmadel@colonialsd.org) 484-802-2695

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	65.6% of total enrolled students are also enrolled in a world language course.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	In the 2024-25, 227 students are enrolled in levels 4, 5, and/or AP in all languages offered (i.e., Spanish, French, and Latin)
Retain students at higher levels	82% of freshmen enrolled in a world language course are retained at higher levels.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	In the 2024-25 school year, we have students enrolled in at least level five and /or AP courses in each language offered at PWHS. (e.g., H Spanish 5, AP Spanish, H French 5, VHS AP French, French Cult/Civ 5, H Latin 5, AP Latin)
Classes are one level per period	In the 2024-25 school year, there are no multi-level language classes in any modern language offered.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	Language instruction begins with an exploratory experience in 6th grade and continues with a proper full year of a student-selected language in grade 7. Spanish, French, Latin have levels 1A/1B, 2, 3H, 4H, 5H, AP as full semester/full credit courses in the High School. Each course meets for 64 minutes each day for a full semester (90 days).
Implement Key Instructional Practices	According to the Department of World Languages' Supervising Principal, 100% of modern world language instruction in PWHS is in line with the Four Key Instructional Practices.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	Classical language (Latin) and Modern Languages (Spanish and French) participate in the AP Language and Culture exam. Spanish and French share an integrated performance assessment task at Level 1
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	8/8 members of the department completed 5+ hours of Lo Logramos workshop on August 21 8am-3pm 8/8 members completed 5+ hours of in-house professional learning and reflection conducting curriculum gap analyses and inventories during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 SYs.
Membership in professional organizations	100% (8/8) department members are active members in professional organization
Provide special program features	Special Program Feature (French): Student travel to Quebec Special Program Feature (Latin): 10+ hours of extracurricular language club activities (Latin Club). Special Program Feature (Spanish): 10+ hours of extracurricular language club activities (Hispanic/Latinx Student Union)



**Ridgway Area High School**  
**Ridgway Area School District**  
**Ridgway, PA**  
**2025 – 2027**

Ms. Katie Grubbs, [grubbskatie@rasd.us](mailto:grubbskatie@rasd.us) 412-741-2230 ext. 3318

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	45% of our high school students are enrolled in one or more world language courses
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	Students are enrolled in four sequence classes in Spanish and French.
Retain students at higher levels	72% retention rate.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	We have Spanish level 5 and French level 5. We also have CIS classes through the University of Pittsburgh in French and Spanish.
Classes are one level per period	Both WI teachers have one split-level course.
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	We have French and Spanish classes in a five-year sequence.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	100% of teachers implement key instructional practices.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	An IPA is offered at Spanish and French 3 level.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	One teacher annually attends the IUP Spring methodology Conference.
Membership in professional organizations	100% of teachers are members of WL professional organizations.
Provide special program features	There are three activities that involve communication in the target language outside the classroom.



# State College High School

State College Area School District

State College , PA

2024 – 2026

Amanda Showers, aks14@sasd.org 814-231-1011, ext. 1303

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	53% of total students are also enrolled in one or more world language courses.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	We have five years offered for French, German, and Spanish. We have a four-year sequence for Latin and Chinese and a two-year sequence for Arabic.
Retain students at higher levels	35% of freshmen enrolled are retained at higher levels.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	In the 2023-2024 school year, we have students enrolled in AP Chinese, French, German, and Spanish. We have students enrolled in IB French, German, Latin, and Spanish.
Classes are one level per period	In the 2023-2024 school year, we have no multi-level classes in commonly taught languages. There is one multi-level class: Chinese 2 and Chinese 3. .
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	In middle school, students select their language (French, German, or Spanish) in sixth grade. They continue with that language for sixth, seventh and eighth grades, meeting every other day for the entire school year for 40 minutes. in a six-day cycle. French, German, and Spanish have level 1, 2, 3, Advanced 4 / IB Year 1, and AP / IB Year 2 at the high school. Chinese has levels 1, 2, 3, AP. Latin has levels 1, 2, IB Year 1, and IB Year 2. Arabic has levels 1-2. All high school courses meet for 90 minutes every other day for the entire school year.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	Based on observations by the department administrator, 75% of teachers are in line with the Four Key Instructional Practices.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	Students in AP Chinese, French, German, and Spanish participate in the AP Language and Culture Exam. Students in IB French, German, Latin and Spanish participate in the IB Language B or Ab-initio exam.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	100% of teachers participated in professional activities. Outside activities included attendance at PSMLA Conference 11/23, attendance at IUP Spring Methodology Conference (4/23), and travel abroad with our German Exchange. Every teacher is a member of a PLC that meets for 45 minutes 2-3 days a week. Additionally, teachers participated in in-house department PD on an Inservice day on 2/27/23 which included a guest speaker in our field from PSU as well as three in-house curriculum work sessions in 10/23 and 11/23. Several teachers attended a webinar with Dr. Liam Printer on 1/20/24 and then shared/facilitated discussion with the department
Current Membership in professional organizations	94% of World Language teachers belong to at least one professional organization
Provide special program features	Our school has travel opportunities and exchange programs in various languages. German Exchange welcomed students from our sister school in September 2023. Our French program welcomed students from our sister school in October 2023. In 2023, 27 students at our School earned the PA Seal of Biliteracy, our first year of participating in this program. Students in French, German, Latin, and Spanish participate in National Exams and we have active Chinese, French, German, Latin, and Spanish clubs that meet after school regularly



# Titusville Area High School

## Titusville Area School District

Titusville, PA

2024 – 2026

Sandralee Kozlowski, [skozlowski@gorockets.org](mailto:skozlowski@gorockets.org), 814-827-2715 x1224

Maintain high percentage of world language enrollment	36% of the students who currently attend Titusville High School are enrolled in a World Language class.
Provide a variety of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	We currently have students enrolled in Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4, and AP. We have students enrolled in French 1, 2, 3, and 4.
Retain students at higher levels	23% of Spanish students are retained at higher levels.
Participate in AP, IB, level 5, and/or CIS program	AP Spanish is taught currently at Titusville High School.
Classes are one level per period	Our high school has two multi-level classes for the 2023-2024 school year
Provide an extended sequence in at least one commonly taught language	The Spanish Program spans five years beginning in 8th Grade.
Implement Key Instructional Practices	90% of the World Language Teachers follow key instructional practices as described.
Administer Standards-based , performance assessment(s)	We administered a district-wide, standards-based assessment across all languages taught, at one language level.
Engage in yearly staff development on world language topics	Two out of three teachers attended World Language Conferences in addition to at least one in-house world language specific workshop.
Current Membership in professional organizations	All of the HS teachers are current members of professional World Language Associations.
Provide special program features	Our school participated in the Seal of Biliteracy Program and also is connected to other countries through the epals.com program (penpals).

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>
1. Maintain high percentage enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Standards are for all students</b>, not just the academic/economic elite. All students should attain world language standards.</li> </ul>
2. Provide choice of languages in a 4 year high school sequence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● U.S. society is diverse. <b>Programs should reflect this diversity</b> within reason.</li> <li>● Students may be more motivated to attain standards with a language of their choosing.</li> </ul>
3. Retain students at higher levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exemplary programs <b>maintain student interest</b> to continue their study</li> <li>● Schools with high academic expectations for students will <b>arrange student schedules to avoid conflicts</b> that otherwise might prevent them from taking higher level classes.</li> </ul>
4. AP, IB, level 5 classes, and/or College in the High School programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Exemplary programs challenge students</b> to reach higher levels of proficiency and encourage students to continue language study K-16</li> </ul>
5. Schedule classes that are one level per period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Time on task is critical for attainment of standards.</b> Multi-level (or split) classes often result in students receiving a half a period.</li> </ul>
6. Offer an extended sequence of instruction in at least one commonly taught language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>A minimum of 3 -5 five years are needed</b> (in a 5 period per week standards-based program) for most students to attain an Intermediate Low level of speaking proficiency (ACTFL Scale)</li> </ul>
<p>7. Implement key practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● use the target language 90% in most classes in a comprehensible way</li> <li>● engage students in pair and small group communicative activities</li> <li>● encourage/require students to express their own meanings</li> <li>● integrate culture into daily instruction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Time on task is critical.</b> Students must be immersed in the target language as much as possible in every class period.</li> <li>● Teachers must speak the target language—but it is critical that <b>students comprehend what is said.</b></li> <li>● Without pair and small group activities in the target language, students have insufficient speaking practice to attain the Communication Standard</li> <li>● Students will not attain proficiency if the main emphasis of instruction is grammar and if the only speaking that occurs is memorized.</li> <li>● Cultural knowledge is essential to effective communication.</li> <li>● Although there are many other best practices for effective world language instruction, we believe that these are key.</li> </ul>
8. Administer standards-based, performance assessment that cuts across languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There can be no standards-based program without a valid, reliable assessment that cuts across languages to determine student progress in attaining standards.</li> <li>● To be valid and reliable, have outside verification of results using a common measurement tool such as the ACTFL Scale.</li> </ul>
9. Engage in yearly staff development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As professionals, teachers must maintain and improve their knowledge and skills. Educators must model the concept of “life-long learning”.</li> </ul>
10. Maintain membership in professional organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● As professionals, teachers must <b>stay abreast of the research</b> in the field, standards implementation, new materials, etc.</li> <li>● Through their membership, teachers <b>support the work of their professional organizations.</b></li> </ul>
11. Provide special program features beyond the classroom environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● These special program features may support the national standards areas: Communications, Cultures, Connections , and Communities</li> <li>● Special programs/projects/activities tend to increase student motivation and participation in world language programs</li> </ul>

## Note To Parents

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Studies have shown that many people in the general public believe that schools, in general, are in trouble but that the school their children attend is ok—what is the basis for this perception? Parents have more and more choices about the schools their children will attend (public, private, parochial, charter) – how can they best make informed decisions? One indicator of a strong academic school is a strong world language program!

PEP criteria gives parents and students 11 concrete program indicators that may be used to evaluate any high school foreign language program. PSMLA hopes that parents will work with school administrators, board members, and teachers to establish and maintain high quality, standards-based foreign language programs. **All students deserve high quality world language programs**—not just those who live in affluent neighborhoods or those who are sometimes referred to as the “academic elite”.

## Note to School Administrators, Board Members, Department Chairs, and Community Members

PSMLA hopes that all high schools across Pennsylvania will be eligible to receive one of the four levels of PEP awards. Unfortunately, many schools do not meet the criteria. We hope that the 11 PEP program indicators will provide a blueprint for improvement in the coming years. While some of the program indicators may have some cost associated with them, many do not. Instead, they are indications of a strong academic program that focuses on best instructional practices (pedagogy) and national world language standards for all students. The No Child Left Behind legislation lists world language education as a “core subject”. PSMLA believes that **we all have a responsibility to make sure that no child is left behind when it comes to learning –and becoming proficient in—a foreign language.**

## Disclaimer:

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PSMLA is not responsible for any discrepancies that may appear between what is written here and the actual programs in the schools. Any questions about individual school programs should be addressed to the school.

An award is made for a period of **three years**, at which time a school may reapply. If school personnel believe they can attain a higher award, they may reapply after one year.