

AMEND BOARD REPORT 99-0825-PO1
WORLD LANGUAGE GOALS AND STANDARDS: ROMANCE LANGUAGES

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education ~~Adopt~~ adopt the amended Policy on World Language Goals and Standards: Romance Languages developed by the Office of Language and Cultural Education.

PURPOSE:

To clarify and update the policy on World Language Goals and Standards to reflect the Chicago Public Schools' instructional and assessment practices in the area of romance languages.

TEXT:

The curriculum area of world language is unique among other subject areas because it encompasses many different languages. It is also unique in that it should lead to the development of a second language as a life skill, not merely mastery of an academic subject. For this reason it is essential that teachers and students have a common set of standards which apply across languages.

The Chicago Public Schools ("CPS") *World Language Goals and Standards: Romance Languages* document was written:

- 1) to standardize required content Chicago Public School high school classrooms curriculum for grades 7 through 12;
- 2) to focus instruction on what students should know and be able to do by the end of the first and second semesters of World Language I;
- ~~3) 2)~~ to establish parameters for the development of Chicago Academic Standards Examinations (CASE) for first year language classes taught in the Chicago Public Schools to focus instruction on what seventh and eighth grade students should know and be able to do by the end of the year in romance languages classes and on what high school students should know and be able to do by the end of the first and second semesters in romance languages classes;
- ~~4) 3)~~ to establish requirements for placement from elementary school World Language programs seventh and eighth grade romance languages programs to advanced World Language romance languages courses in high school; and
- ~~5) 4)~~ to inform students and their parents of expected outcomes for World Language romance languages I.

ISSUES:

~~The curriculum area of world language is unique among other subject areas because it encompasses many different languages. It is also unique in that it should lead to the development of a second language as a life skill, not merely mastery of an academic subject. For this reason it is essential that teachers and students have a common set of standards which apply across languages.~~

POLICY TEXT:

The Chicago Board of Education approved a two year graduation requirement in world languages for students entering high school, beginning with the 1997-98 school year. This initiative affirms the growing need for second language proficiency for Americans who will live and work in the new millennium. The requirement is in line with the National Goals 2000. The Goals 2000 document, affirmed by the last two presidents, includes foreign language as one of the core subject areas for American students, with English, science, mathematics and social studies. In ~~1996~~ 1999, national *Standards for Foreign Language Learning (K-12)* ~~were~~ was published through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The following year, the State of Illinois

adopted *State Goals for Foreign Languages (K-12)*. ~~Published reports indicate that the State of Illinois is preparing to issue a statewide examination for foreign language students in the year 2002.~~ A copy of the *World Language Goals and Standards: Romance Languages* is available ~~in~~ on the Office of Language and Cultural Education website at www.olce.org.

EDUCATIONAL REVIEW:

The sources of the development of the *World Language Goals and Standards: Romance Languages* includes both national and state goals and standards as well as the expertise of Chicago Public School CPS high school teachers of Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish.

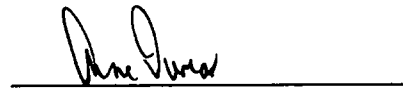
FINANCIAL:

~~The adoption of the World Language Goals and Standards is of no cost to the Chicago Public Schools.~~

Approved for Consideration:


Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

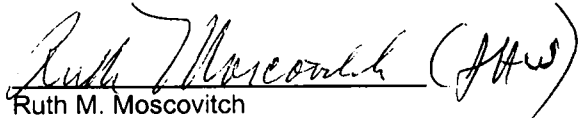
Approved:


Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:


John Mairoca
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:


Ruth M. Moscovitch
General Counsel