

KANSAS FOREIGN LANGUAGE STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS

Vision Statement

Studying another language and culture provides the powerful keys for successful communication: “knowing how, when, and why, to say what to whom: (National Standards, 1996). The organizing principle for language study is communication, which highlights the social, linguistic and cultural aspects of language. The approach to second language instruction found in today’s schools is designed to facilitate meaningful interaction with others, whether they are on another continent, across town, within the neighborhood, or in the classroom.

Whereas foreign language study can begin at any grade level, the use of the terms introduce, expanding, and mastery underscores the belief that acquisition of a second language is a long-term process and should not be segmented into specific grade levels. Foreign language study should be a part of a student’s educational experience from kindergarten through university; just as a student does not learn all there is to know about English, math, science, and social studies in two years, neither can a student achieve foreign language proficiency in two years.