World Language Level IV Standards & Benchmarks

Communication - Level IV

1.1 Students will converse, provide and obtain information, express feelings, emotions, and ideas, and exchange opinions in the target language.

1. Initiate, develop, discuss, and present orally or in writing solutions to important issues and problems of the target cultures.
2. Exchange, support, and discuss their opinions with fluid use of language on a variety of topics dealing with contemporary and historical issues.
3. Describe and justify states of being and feelings.
4. Engage in authentic communication during visits, field trips, community service activities, etc.

1.2 Students will understand and interpret writing and speech on a variety of topics in the target language.

1. Comprehend main ideas of unfamiliar written and oral resources from various media.
2. Understand the main ideas and significant details of authentic live and recorded discussions, lectures, and presentations on current or past events from the target cultures.
3. Understand the main ideas of nonfiction articles and primary source documents.
4. Analyze target language literary works orally and/or in writing.
5. Understand the cultural nuances of meaning in written and spoken language, as expressed by speakers of the language in formal and informal settings.
6. Understand the cultural nuances of meaning in expressive products of the culture, including selections from various literary genres and the visual arts.

1.3 Students will present information, concepts, and ideas to listeners and/or readers on a variety of topics in the language studied.

1. Write organized and original compositions, journal entries and reports, and produce various media presentations on a variety of topics.
2. Write various types of text, using appropriate format and style.
3. Prepare and deliver oral presentations, such as speeches and debates, on various topics.
4. Perform scenes from plays; recite poems or excerpts from literature commonly read by speakers of the target language.
5. Create stories, poems, short plays, or skits based on themes, ideas, and perspectives from the target cultures.
6. Summarize articles or documentaries intended for native speakers of the target language and discuss the topics orally or in writing in the target language.
7. Prepare and present a research-based analysis of current events from multiple perspectives.

1.4 Students will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the target language and their own language or dialect.

1. Compare nuances of meaning of words, idioms, and vocal inflections in the target language and their own.
2. Apply knowledge of sound-symbol correspondence, stress, and intonation patterns in spontaneous communicative situations.
3. Understand how the elements of a language may reflect the ways in which people organize information and view the world.

Culture - Level IV

2.1 Students will demonstrate an understanding of the practices and perspectives of the cultures studied and the relationship between them.

1. Explain social and geographic factors that inform cultural practices.
2. Identify, analyze, and discuss patterns of behavior in and between various subgroups that comprise the target culture.
3. Adjust speech and behavior appropriately to the situation and audience.
4. Identify differences in cultural practices among same-language cultures.
5. Analyze aspects of the political, legal, and economic systems and practices in the target culture countries, and discuss the factors that influenced the development of these systems.
6. Discuss social issues in the various target culture communities, and examine their impact on the behavioral patterns of individuals, families, and communities.
7. Analyze generalizations and stereotypes of the target culture.

2.2 Students will demonstrate an understanding of the products and perspectives of the cultures studied and the relationship between them.

1. Analyze the role of various social institutions of the culture studied, such as religious institutions, clubs, organizations, and analyze how they reflect the values of the target language communities.
2. Analyze expressive products of the culture, including selections from various literary genres, art, architecture, music, cinema and theater.
3. Identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationship between ideas, and perspectives of the cultures studied and their literary and artistic products.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of some of the major literary and artistic movements within identified cultures where the target language is spoken.

2.3 Students will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the target cultures and their own.

1. Hypothesize about the origins of idioms as a reflection of the target culture and one's own.
2. Apply appropriate verbal and non-verbal behavior in a variety of social contexts in the target cultures.
3. Analyze and infer cross-cultural similarities and differences as observed in practices, perspectives, expressive products, and literary genres of the target cultures and students' own cultures.
4. Hypothesize about reasons behind similarities and differences between the target cultures and the students' own culture.
5. Analyze and contrast the historical as well as present-day contributions of the target culture to the world-at-large with those of the students' own cultures.