



Chapter 9

**THE EFFECT OF THE
WORLD LANGUAGES
STANDARDS AND
FRAMEWORK ON THE
NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY**



STUDENTS

Through the study of world languages, New Jersey students will reap the rewards of being able to communicate effectively in a technological society that presupposes immediate communication in diverse social settings. New Jersey students will be able to use their linguistic and cultural knowledge to make connections with what they are learning in school to their future careers. As future members of the New Jersey workforce, their ability to communicate will be the key to surviving, resolving conflict, problem solving, making contributions to the community, and prospering in a competitive job market on the state, national, and international levels.

TEACHERS

World language teachers should play an important role as “agents of change” in the teaching of languages to all of New Jersey’s children. They will gain additional knowledge, expertise, and confidence as they impact the development of the world language curriculum to align with the standards and utilize the standards in their planning. They will also benefit from the interaction with colleagues across disciplines through opportunities for professional development and in-services that will be offered as the standards are accepted and implemented throughout the state.

ADMINISTRATORS

Administrators and policy makers will also be critical initiators of the change process as their support is crucial in realizing the vision of communicative competency in one or more world languages for New Jersey students. Administrators will have local autonomy in implementing the standards in their districts in a variety of ways. They will be a “driving force” for facilitating sound curricular decisions, challenging the permanence of accepted practice, and catalyzing the vision of well-articulated K-12 world language programs.

PARENTS

Parents will discover a new sequence, new instructional approaches, and new content in New Jersey world language programs, which may differ from past personal learning experiences. They will be invited to join the world language class as resource personnel who may add to the knowledge, curriculum, and cultural aspects of the classroom. They will be encouraged to integrate world language study at home by providing input on a variety of student activities. Parents will become learners of other languages and cultures as they share their children’s language experiences and watch their linguistic competencies grow and flourish.

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

As the impact of communication-based language programs begins to be felt in the workplace, the New Jersey business community will find that the study of world languages has helped to develop in students the problem-solving and critical-thinking skills needed to achieve success. Moreover, the study of world languages has given students valuable insight regarding the profound implications of language and culture in the economic and business world.

Through business and school partnerships, students will be able to participate in work-related experiences and apprenticeships. Business professionals also will be invited to share their expertise and participate in the activities of the world language program.

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

For the first time in the history of the state, colleges and universities will be receiving New Jersey students who are products of proficiency-based K-12 world language programs and who are able to communicate effectively in one or more world languages other than English. Postsecondary institutions will find it necessary to redesign current programs in response to the needs of learners who have benefited from extended world language sequences. To achieve this, these institutions will need to provide continuing professional development for existing staff.

Colleges and universities will also come to realize the value of integrating world languages throughout the college curriculum as a way to acquire knowledge, analyze it, and apply it in ways that are relevant to students at this level.