

## The Public Schools of Brookline World Language K-6

*Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The United States must educate students who are equipped linguistically and culturally to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad.*

### Standards for Foreign Language Learning

The 2012-2013 school year marks the fifth year of Elementary World Language instruction for all Brookline students in grades K-6. The system-wide program began in January 2009, with the exception of the Driscoll School, which has had a vibrant Chinese program for 12 years. Elementary World Language reflects Brookline's ongoing commitment to preparing its students to succeed in a multilingual and multicultural global society. (The Strategic Plan of the Public Schools of Brookline, Goal 3)

### Program goals

The K-6 World Language Program is based on current pedagogical research about effective approaches to language acquisition. It meets the rigorous expectations of the Massachusetts Foreign Languages Curriculum Framework as well as the nationally established standards for foreign language education. The overall goals are:

- To acquire proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing the target language;
- To acquire an understanding of and appreciation for other cultures;
- To reinforce learning of the general curriculum content through the study of a world language; and
- To develop students as language learners<sup>1</sup>

### Program model

Grade K-6 World Language is Content-Enriched FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School), which provides a sequential language learning experience that aims to develop language proficiency, appropriate to each grade level. Content-Enriched FLES programs are those in which language lessons reinforce concepts from other subject areas: social studies, science, and math, and English language arts.

The schedule for world language instruction, by grade, is:

Grades K-2:	3 sessions x 20 minutes = 60 minutes/week
Grades 3-5:	3 sessions x 30 minutes = 90 minutes/week
Grade 6:	3 sessions x 45 minutes = 135 minutes/week.

The Brookline Elementary World Language Learning Expectations are based upon the “5 C’s” of the National Standards for Foreign Languages: Communication, Cultures, Comparisons, Connections and Communities. World language teachers, together with the K-8 Curriculum Coordinator for World Languages, continue to develop a proficiency-based curriculum grounded in culture as the program achieves implementation. The curriculum and assessments focus on what students can *do* with the language, and reflect the proficiency descriptors of the National Performance Guidelines for K-12 Learners.

World language teachers use almost exclusively the target language (90%+) of Spanish or Chinese for instruction and the emphasis is on functional communication activities in real-life situations. Lessons are carried out through the use of songs, games, books, and other interactive activities that provide students immediate opportunities to practice the language. Material is introduced in thematic units of School and Community, Family, and Climate (K-2); Community, Leisure Time, Climate and Food (3-5). Students in Grade 6 continue to further their learning in these themes while transitioning to a more formal middle grade program model.

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<sup>1</sup> Through our assessment of the first four years of EWL instruction and collaboration with classroom teachers, this goal was identified as a critical component of our EWL program and guided the development of expectations for all educators.

# K-8 WL Program and Curriculum Implementation Timeline

## Grades K-6

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GRADE	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
K	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
2	1	2	3	3	3	3	3
3	1	2	3	4	4	4	4
4	1	2	3	4	5	5	5
5	1	2	3	4	5	6	6
6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

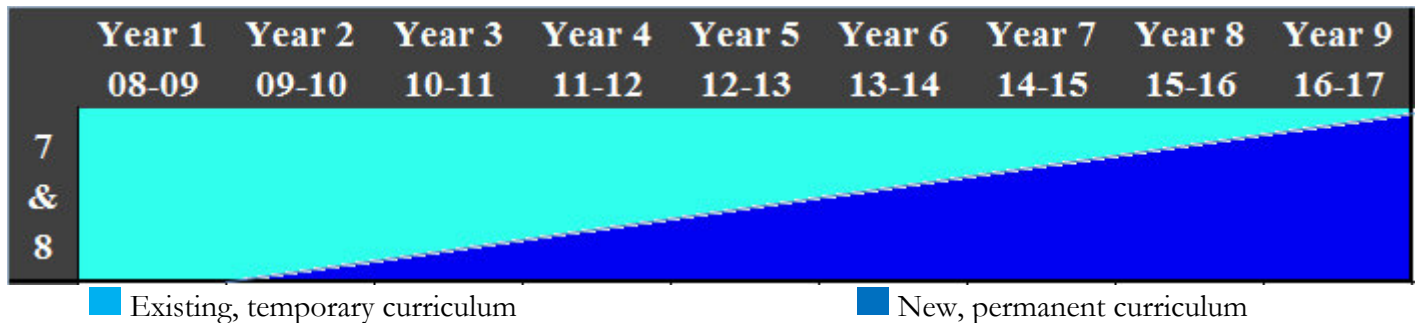
Columns represent the number of years of world language instruction

Permanent curriculum

Temporary curriculum

- 2008-2009: Year 1 – World language instruction for all students in Grades K-6.
- 2014-2015: Year 7 – First cohort of students will have experienced a full K-6 program.

## Grades 7-8



- 2008-2009: Continuation of existing world language instruction in Grades 7-8.
- 2016-2017: Year 9 – First cohort of students will have experienced a full K-8 program.