



# Elementary World Languages

June 12, 2023

# Building WL proficiency: What the research says



For elementary students to move from Novice-Low to Novice-Mid Proficiency for category 1 languages (those closest to English, like Spanish and French), you need a program meeting minimum 3x per week and 90 mins of instruction per week. This is based upon recommendations from ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages).

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The NJ mandate only requires 30 minutes per week, indicating that there is not an expectation for students to build fluency in a world language at the elementary level.

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With the teachers we have and the schedule we can build, even if we only taught Spanish over all six years (K-5), the students will still not have enough hours to attain Novice-Mid Proficiency level status.

# Process



We posted “World Language Teachers-Elementary” on 4/17/23 and included certifications for all six languages that are currently offered at the high school.

Given our recent hiring experiences, this was the most sound strategy.

A magnifying glass is positioned over a document. The document has the words 'Job Opportunity' and 'EMPLOYMENT' printed on it. Below these words, there is a list of job categories and their corresponding counts: 'Accounting ..... 107', 'Administrative/Clerical ..... 110', and 'Automotive ..... 129'. To the right of these categories, there are more categories: 'Inventory', 'Legal Administration', and 'Legal Employment'. The magnifying glass is focused on the 'Job Opportunity' and 'EMPLOYMENT' text.

# Outcome: Three world language teachers with different certifications



We were able to find three strong candidates for these positions.

- Chinese, German, French

We developed a rotating schedule that has certain advantages.

Students do not choose a language until grade 7. Offering languages at the elementary level that we do not offer as part of the exploratory program in grade 6 (Chinese and German) provides students with exposure to those languages so they can make more informed choices in the future.

Similar to the grade 6 exploratory, this structure provides students with experiences with multiple languages.

