



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. *KBS*
DATE: September 27, 2016
SUBJECT: Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.04.11 *Programs in World Languages*
ADOPTION

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this action is to obtain permission to adopt the revisions to the COMAR 13A.04.11 Programs in World Languages.

REGULATION PROMULGATION PROCESS:

Under Maryland law, a state agency, such as the State Board, may propose a new regulation whenever the circumstances arise to do so. After the State Board votes to propose such a regulation, the proposed regulation is sent to the AELR Committee for a 15-day review period. If the AELR Committee does not hold up the proposed regulation for further review, it is published in the Maryland Register for a 30-day public comment period. At the end of the comment period, MSDE staff reviews and summarizes the public comments. Thereafter, MSDE staff will present a recommendation to the State Board of Education to either: (1) adopt the regulation in the form it was proposed; or (2) revise the regulation and adopt it as final because suggested revision is not a substantive change; or (3) revise the regulation and re-propose it because the suggested revision is a substantive change. At any time during this process, the AELR Committee may stop the promulgation process and hold a hearing. Thereafter, it may recommend to the Governor that the regulation not be adopted as a final regulation or the AELR Committee may release the regulation for final adoption.

BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

The revisions to the regulation for programs in World Languages incorporate the revised national standards that focus on literacy and real-world applications of language to communicate effectively and interact with cultural understanding. MSDE has worked with local school systems to familiarize teachers with the new standards through the World Language Academies in 2014, Maryland College and Career Ready Conferences in 2015, and the World Language EdCamp this summer.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The regulation was presented at the May State Board meeting for permission to publish. MSDE received no comments or questions from stakeholders during the publication period. Local school systems have already begun to incorporate the revised language that aligns to the national *World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages* as they develop curriculum documents and professional learning activities.

At the August 2016 State Board meeting, a request was made to further define and explain “cultural competence.” Board members have been provided with the draft document, *Maryland World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages*, including sample grade level indicators at each proficiency level that provide examples of how students can demonstrate cultural competence and understanding.

ACTION:

Request permission to adopt amendments to regulations under COMAR 13A.04.11 Programs in World Languages.