

## **Employability Skills + World Languages**

### **How do World Language Learners develop the skills identified in the Employability Skills Framework for Career and Technical Education? (<http://cte.ed.gov/employabilityskills>)**

The CTE Employability Skills Framework, developed by the U.S. Department of Education (2013), clusters specific employability skills under three categories: Effective Relationships, Applied Knowledge, and Workplace Skills. Language educators who use high-leverage teaching practices guide learners to acquire a language in addition to their native language as learners use the language in real and purposeful communication. These language learners develop into **collaborators, analyzers, planners, thinkers, and communicators** demonstrating skills identified in the CTE Framework. ACTFL's Professional Learning Committee presents this correlation to connect languages with career pathways.

#### **Reflective & Supportive Collaborator**

##### **CTE Employability Skills**

**Effective Relationships: Interpersonal Skills and Personal Qualities**

##### **Language learners are better able to...**

- Accept feedback from others
- Give feedback responsibly
- Resolve conflicts

World language learners have the opportunity to collaborate and interact with people who speak languages and come from cultures that are different from their own, representing diverse communities and belief systems. They develop the ability to actively participate within and mobilize teams, identify and clarify problems, and resolve conflicts constructively. These collaborative students develop the ability to stick with long-term projects, as learning a new language requires patience, perseverance, and a growth mindset. In team settings, these students thrive as they develop the ability to give and receive appropriate and meaningful feedback while engaging in creative discussion.

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## **Pattern Analyzer**

### **CTE Employability Skills**

**Applied Knowledge:** Critical Thinking Skills

**Workplace Skills:** Information Use, Communication Skills, and Systems Thinking

#### **Language learners are better able to...**

- Identify nuances and exceptions
- Make connections
- Comprehend complexities
- Navigate complex and evolving systems

World language learners participate in learning experiences in which they identify the patterns and unique aspects of the language. Engaging with people and resources from other countries and cultures, world language learners make connections between their own language and culture, and the language and culture that they study. Language learners quickly learn to look for patterns in order to make meaning in what they hear, read, or view and then express their own meaning. As a result, they broaden their worldview while developing skills and strategies to navigate interdependent and dynamic global communities.

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## **Goal-oriented Planner**

### **CTE Employability Skills**

**Effective Relationships:** Personal Qualities

**Applied Knowledge:** Critical Thinking Skills

**Workplace Skills:** Information Use and Systems Thinking

#### **Language learners are better able to...**

- break down big ideas into smaller concepts
- set achievable goals
- strategically organize and plan within a framework

World language learners utilize a step-by-step approach, building on previously-learned skills. As critical thinkers, they explore a language and its cultures while identifying topics of interest. In classrooms where educators incorporate learners' self-direction, learners prioritize their areas of focus to match their abilities and interests and work toward a long-range goal. Language students learn that making progress takes time and that setting realistic goals and developing a plan result in positive personal and professional outcomes.

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## **Creative, Independent & Critical Thinker**

### **CTE Employability Skills**

**Effective Relationships:** Interpersonal Skills

**Applied Knowledge:** Critical Thinking Skills

#### **Language learners are better able to...**

- Solve problems with flexibility and innovation
- Observe, interpret and process new ideas
- Recognize different perspectives

World language learners communicate through understanding, interpreting, and analyzing what is heard, read, or viewed. Learners draw comparisons, share information and seek interaction with others who offer diverse perspectives. Educators providing an interactive classroom cultivate learners who function collaboratively, are open to diverse perspectives, and can identify problems and resolve conflicts independently and within teams. With their language skills, learners grasp different points of view that allow for a variety of creative solutions to real-world situations and complex global issues in a variety of fields.

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## **Confident & Competent Communicator**

### **CTE Employability Skills**

**Effective Relationships:** Interpersonal Skills

**Workplace Skills:** Communication Skills and Information Use

#### **Language learners are better able to...**

- Listen actively
- Function in a team setting
- Communicate in more than one language

World language learners improve oral and written communication in both their first and additional languages. Language learners also seek to understand the perspectives and ideas of the people with whom they are communicating. In world language classrooms, students use their language skills as well as their knowledge of other academic subjects to explore, analyze, and address real world situations. Learners build their technology skills by using a variety of technological resources to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information in the target language. Learners focus on effectively understanding messages they hear, read, or view; creating messages through speaking, writing, or media tailored to specific audiences; and exchanging ideas and opinions in conversations and discussions.

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**Resources:****World Readiness Standards**

- <https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/publications/standards/World-ReadinessStandardsforLearningLanguages.pdf>

**21st Century Skills Map**

- [https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/21stCenturySkillsMap/p21\\_worldlanguagesmap.pdf](https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/21stCenturySkillsMap/p21_worldlanguagesmap.pdf)

**Oral Proficiency Workplace Poster**

- <https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/guidelines/OralProficiencyWorkplacePoster.pdf>