



STARTALK and STARTALK-Endorsed Principles for Effective Language Learning and Teaching

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Essential Question:

Do Best-Practices make a difference?



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Mission

To provide summer language learning opportunities for students and professional development opportunities for teachers in critical languages

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Current STARTALK Languages (2014)

Language	Student Program	Teacher Program
Arabic	16	15
Chinese	55	40
Dari	1	6
Hindi	11	9
Portuguese	3	11
Persian	4	8
Russian	8	13
Swahili	3	5
Turkish	2	5
Urdu	8	8



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STARTALK Vision: Learners

- Focus on **learners**
 - More students studying critical languages
 - Longer sequences of instruction
 - More meaningful language learning outcomes
 - Effective use of technology

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STARTALK Vision: Teachers

- Focus on **teachers**
 - Increased number of highly effective and certified world language teachers
 - Better system for preparing and certifying world language teachers
 - Rigorous preparation
 - Demonstrated skills and knowledge
 - Continued opportunities for professional development
 - Increased leadership, coordination and incentives from federal and state agencies

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STARTALK Vision: Programs

- ❑ Focus on **programs**
 - Technical assistance to local and regional programs
 - Academic year programs adopting the STARTALK models

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STARTALK 2007 – 2013

- ❑ Number of programs
 - Student: 559
 - Teacher: 387
- ❑ Number of enrollments
 - Student: 35,658
 - Teacher: 8,509
- ❑ Number states
 - In 2013, all but Louisiana and Tennessee

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STARTALK-endorsed Best Practices

- Implementing a Standards-Based and Thematically Organized Curriculum
- Facilitating a Learner-Centered Classroom
- Using the Target Language and Providing Comprehensible Input for Instruction
- Integrating Culture, Content, and Language in a World
- Adapting and Using Age-Appropriate Authentic Materials
- Conducting Performance-Based Assessment

URL <http://startalk.umd.edu/principles/> 9

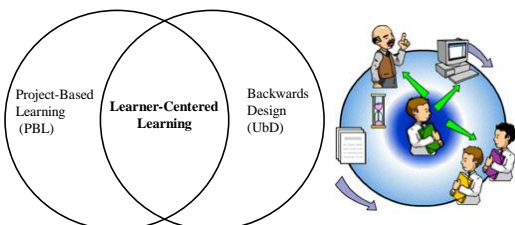
(1) Implementing a Standards-Based and Thematically Organized Curriculum

- All units and lessons address standards with the goal of developing students' abilities for real world communication.
- Use meaningful themes and story forms to organize curriculum, instruction, and assessment.



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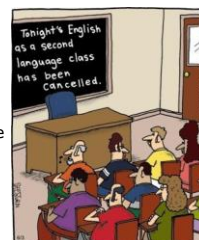
(2) Facilitating a Learner-Centered Classroom



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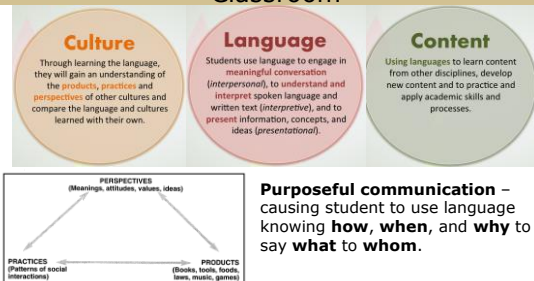
(3) Using the Target Language and Providing Comprehensible Input for Instruction

- Target language at least 90% of the time.
- Comprehensible Input strategies:
 - **Language** (paraphrasing, defining words by example, not translation, repetition of key words and phrases)
 - **Context** (making sure students have knowledge of the topic/objective of the lesson, gestures, visuals and props)
 - **Interaction with learners** (frequent comprehension checks)



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(4) Integrating Culture, Content, and Language in a World Language Classroom



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(5) Adapting and Using Age-Appropriate Authentic Materials

- The teacher uses authentic materials and designs tasks appropriate to the language proficiency and age level of the learners.
- The teacher uses a range of authentic print and non-print materials in a variety of technological formats.



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(6) Conducting Performance-Based Assessment

- Assessments focus on what students **can do** with the language they have learned.
- Formative vs. summative assessments.
- Assessments go beyond paper and pencil format.



Goal: to develop students who are active learners and can self-assess.

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Best Practices Survey:

Identify which STARTALK-endorsed Best Practices you currently use in your teaching and how often.

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UW STARTALK: Russian in the Sky and Outer Space

- 4-week intensive (5 hours/day) language program
- Expanding Russian proficiency through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- Focus on Russian Heritage Language Learners (14-18 years old)



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Theme, subthemes and STEM Units

Russian in the Sky and Outer Space

- Space Race/Voyage to Mars
- Airplanes: History of Aviation, Construction, and Aerodynamics



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