



kentucky world language association

# World Language Showcase & Gala Event

Show What You Can Do With Languages!

## Vision Statement

The KWLA World Language Showcase & Gala Event is a network of statewide events designed to certify and showcase students' communicative and intercultural competencies that are aligned with state, national and international standards. Performances demonstrate the application of 21st century skills in real-world situations as preparation for life in college, the workplace and the global community.

## I. Participation Guidelines

Any Kentucky student (elementary, middle, high, post-secondary) who is learning a new language can participate in a District or Regional Showcase. All learners must participate in one assessment from each of the three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Presentational, Interpretive). Learners who demonstrate a minimum of a Novice High proficiency level in at least two assessments will be invited to participate in the State Showcase. All teachers wishing to enter learners must participate in at least one KWLA sponsored Proficiency Workshop and be available to evaluate student proficiency during a Showcase.

### School Showcase

While language learning may occur at the school level (school may be defined as: *traditional K-12 classroom, university course, online learning environment, home school, social learning platform, etc.*) a learner's performance and eligibility should be determined by a formal assessment. Highly effective language teachers guide language learning opportunities, provide resources and enable learners to set goals and know if they've met them.

### District or Regional Showcase

The District or Regional Showcase serves as the qualifying event that certifies participating learners' language proficiency. The District or Regional Showcase allows parents and community members to observe learners language use in real-world contexts. Local universities or large districts plan regional showcase events that are unique to the college, district or region.

### State Showcase & Gala Event

Learners from across Kentucky are invited to participate in the annual State Showcase based on their performance (*Novice High level or above*) at the Regional Showcase. Learners will use their language skills to participate in spontaneous and prepared performance events, and to engage and collaborate with other language speakers. Events may include: language scavenger hunts and challenges, chat rooms, international guest speakers, video conferencing, an awards gala and dance.

## II. Eligibility Guidelines

### Student Eligibility

1. All students who are enrolled in a language class during the current academic year are eligible to participate.
2. Students must be in good standing in their schools. Students who are suspended from school may not participate in either Regional or State Showcase Events.
3. **Heritage Speakers.** Heritage speaker is a student who is exposed to a language other than English at home. Heritage Speakers may participate in any event appropriate to their proficiency level.
4. **Exchange Students.** Exchange students are defined as students from another country temporarily attending school in the United States. Exchange students may not enter any assessment in the language of which they are native speakers. If they are students of another language, they may participate in accordance with the guidelines.
5. Improperly enrolled students will be disqualified, and their teachers will be suspended from participation in the KWLA Showcase for one year (pending board approval).

### Teacher Eligibility

1. All teachers whose students wish to participate in the Showcase & Gala Event must be members of the Kentucky World Language Association (KWLA). Teachers may join the association by registering online at [www.kwla-online.org](http://www.kwla-online.org). All teachers must pay their KWLA membership fees prior to registering students for a Showcase Event.
2. All teachers must be trained in proper assessment procedures at a KWLA-sponsored workshop.  
**For 2012 only:** Any teacher unable to complete the training in time for a Regional Showcase Event must contact the appropriate Regional Director for a dispensation.
3. All teachers must be willing to assess a number of students equivalent to or greater than the number of participants they bring.
4. Teachers may enter students only in a Showcase Event designated as their Regional Showcase Event. Any request for changes must be made to the Executive Director. For more information, see section entitled "Regional Showcase Events".
5. Deadlines for entering Regional Showcase Events are determined by Regional Directors.

### III. Registration Guidelines

#### Levels of Assessment

1. Students must complete the KWLA *I Can!* - Assessment to self-assess their proficiency level. Criteria are aligned with the Kentucky Standard for World Language Proficiency and ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. Teachers then review the students' self-assessments and verify that they are accurate.
2. At the Regional Showcase level students are grouped according to proficiency levels indicated by students on the *I Can!* - Assessment.
3. At the State Showcase students are grouped according to their proficiency level demonstrated at the Regional Showcase.

#### State Showcase Entry Guidelines

1. Only students who are assessed at Novice High or above in two out of three core performance events at the Regional Showcase may attend, regardless of their placement in Prepared or Live Performance Events.
2. Alternate means of assessment may be available for students whose regions do not support their language or who do not have a Regional Showcase to attend. Contact the Showcase Executive Director at [showcase@kwla-online.org](mailto:showcase@kwla-online.org).
3. All teachers must register their own students online no later than two weeks preceding the State Showcase Event. No corrections or changes are permitted after close of registration.

#### Regional Showcase Entry Guidelines

1. With the exception of Latin, all students must participate in three core performance events - one from each mode of communication: interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive.
2. Latin students must demonstrate proficiency through a written exam and an extemporaneous oral reading of a short text.
3. Students may also choose to participate in any of the prepared or live performance events. (Regional Directors may limit the number of entries per teacher according to the size of their Event. Please refer to information sent by your Regional Director.)
4. All distinguished Prepared Performance Events from each region are eligible to be presented at the State Showcase by the group members who have demonstrated Novice High proficiency (or above) in two of the three Core Performance Events.
5. The first place Language Bowl team from each region is invited to compete at the State Showcase by the team members who have demonstrated Novice High proficiency (or above) in two of the three Core Performance Events. A team attending the State Showcase must have 3 eligible players. If there are fewer than 3 eligible players, the runner-up will be invited to represent the region.

### IV. District & Regional Showcase Events

The following District & Regional Showcase Events have been identified as of January 2012. Not all Regional Showcase sites are able offer all events, please contact the Regional Director for your showcase for registration information.

#### Western Kentucky University Regional Showcase

Friday, February 24, 2012

Contact: Tim Straubel, [tim.straubel@wku.edu](mailto:tim.straubel@wku.edu)

#### Elizabethtown Community & Technical College Regional Showcase

Tuesday, March 13

Contact: Jean Dudgeon, [jean.dudgeon@kctcs.edu](mailto:jean.dudgeon@kctcs.edu)

#### Northern Kentucky University Regional Showcase

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Contact: Caryn Connelly, [connellyc1@nku.edu](mailto:connellyc1@nku.edu)

#### Fayette County Public Schools Regional Showcase

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Contact: Alicia Vinson, [alicia.vinson@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:alicia.vinson@fayette.kyschools.us)

*Open to FCPS teachers only.*

#### Greater Louisville Regional Showcase

Saturday, March 31, 2012

Contact: Thomas Sauer, [thomas.sauer@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:thomas.sauer@jefferson.kyschools.us)

*Open to all area public and private school teachers.*

#### Murray State University Regional Showcase

Thursday, April 5, 2012

Contact: Meg Brown, [mbrown1@murraystate.edu](mailto:mbrown1@murraystate.edu)

#### Transylvania University Regional Showcase

TBD

Contact: Lisa Contreras, [lcontreras@transy.edu](mailto:lcontreras@transy.edu)

#### Morehead State University Regional Showcase

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Contact: Vandy Trent, [v.trent@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:v.trent@moreheadstate.edu)

1. KWLA is actively seeking additional regional sites. Interested teachers are encouraged to speak with other teachers in the area to gauge interest in a new region before contacting the KWLA. Regional showcases may be as small as two schools or as large as several counties.
2. If there is no Showcase Event in your area for your Chinese, German, Japanese, Latin or Russian students, alternate means of assessment may be accepted, as determined by KWLA.

## V. Core Performance Events

All students of modern languages must participate in three core performance events at the regional level, one from each mode: interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive. Information for students of Classical Languages can be found in section VIII.

### INTERPERSONAL Task

Students demonstrate ability to meaningfully communicate with a partner on familiar topics.

1. Learners identified as **Novice Language Learners** participate in a conversation based on familiar topics and activities and facilitated by a trained moderator.
2. Learners identified as **Intermediate Language Learners** and above participate in one or more conversations based on variety of familiar topics in uncomplicated situations with a partner assigned at random.
3. Students are evaluated according to the Core Performance Event rubric.

### PRESENTATIONAL Task

Students demonstrate ability to meaningfully communicate in writing or using the spoken language.

1. Students are presented with a one or more authentic materials (for example: newspaper article, advertisement, video) and a prompt in English that correlates to the materials.
2. Speaking students have 20 minutes to prepare an oral presentation appropriate to their learning level: 3-5 minutes (novice) or 5-8 minutes (intermediate).
3. Writing students have 30 minutes to prepare a written presentation appropriate to their learning level.
4. Students may not use a dictionary, a text/grammar book, or any prepared notes.
5. Speaking students may bring a blank 4x6 card to use for note taking. Notes may be on one side of the card only. Notes may be in English or the target language and should be turned in after the presentation.
6. Students are evaluated according to the Core Performance Event rubric.

### INTERPRETIVE Task

Students demonstrate ability to comprehend written or spoken language.

1. Students are presented with a series of authentic materials (for example: newspaper article, advertisement, video) and have to answer one or more questions regarding each item.
2. There is a minimum of 20 multiple-choice questions.
3. The assessment takes approximately 30 minutes.
4. The number of correct answers determines proficiency level.

## VI. Prepared Performance Events

Prepared Performance Events are presentations in the target language based on projects completed by individuals or groups at the school level. Types of prepared performance events include Community Service, Interdisciplinary, and Personal Interest projects.

### General Guidelines

1. Students may participate individually or in groups.
2. Students present the project in an effective and creative way before a panel of evaluators and an audience. Students are rated by the evaluators and the audience.
3. Projects are assessed according to **comprehensibility** of the target language, and **(potential) impact** of the project on the individual or community, **creativity** of the project itself, and **effectiveness** of the presentation.
4. All projects that are recognized as “distinguished” are invited to be presented at the State Showcase for Best in State. Individuals attending the State Showcase must have demonstrated Novice High proficiency or above in two out of three Core Performance Events.

### Community Service Projects:

Learners use the target language to create projects that extend outside the classroom to help the school and/or community.

#### Examples:

- Learners produce newsletters, posters, and web pages that inform the local heritage language population.
- Learners implement a community project, i.e., library story-time, cultural heritage festival, local health fair, etc.

### Interdisciplinary Projects:

Learners use the target language to create projects to demonstrate their understanding of other content areas in the target language.

#### Examples:

- Learners create a virtual or real museum on a topic of current interest or relevance to the target culture.
- Learners participate in an international partnership project investigating how education in the United States is similar and different from education in the target culture.

### Personal Interest Projects:

Learners use the target language to create projects that demonstrate their personal interests in a non-academic topic of the target culture.

#### Examples:

- Learners research an area of shared interest between student and peer in target culture, i.e., skateboarding,
- Learners design an app or game for personal use.
- Learners create a poem, play, song, etc.

## VII. Live Performance Events

*All live performance events are optional at the Regional Showcase Level.*

### Language Bowl

*Schools teams participate in a lively quiz bowl format that will ask learners to demonstrate their language and intercultural competencies by answering general knowledge questions.*

1. The format is Quick Recall (toss-up, bonus, bounce back bonus) with one half of 40 questions or 15 minutes, whichever comes first.
2. Questions are taken equally from each of the following categories: (1) social studies/history, (2) geography, (3) art, literature, and music, (4) current events. \*
3. The language bowl is conducted entirely in the target language: questions are written in the target language, and answers must be given in the target language.
4. Teams may consist of 4 players with 1 alternate. No time outs or substitutions are allowed during a single match.
5. Teams should bring their own buzzer systems and provide a time and/or scorekeeper.
6. First-place teams from each Regional Showcase will be invited to participate in the State Language Bowl.

### Language Challenge

*Learners are grouped based on their proficiency level to complete a multi-step task that allows them to use the target language and apply 21st century skills to solve a problem.*

1. Students are grouped according to language level and are expected to speak the target language throughout the challenge.
2. Language challenge events may include some or any of the following: scavenger hunts, cultural activities, group videos, problem solving, etc.

## VIII. CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

*Guidelines for Classical Languages are currently under review by the Kentucky Classical Association.*

*Contact KCA President, Andrew Gollan ([andrew.gollan@fayette.kyschools.us](mailto:andrew.gollan@fayette.kyschools.us)) with comments and questions.*

### Core Performance Events

1. Students in Classical languages must demonstrate proficiency through a written test and an oral reading.  
Written test – Students answer questions in the following areas: (1) translation & reading comprehension, (2) derivatives & vocabulary, (3) culture/history.  
Oral proficiency – Students perform an extemporaneous reading of a short text.
2. Students must be assessed at Novice High or above in both events in order to attend the State Showcase.

### Prepared Performance Events

1. Students may participate individually or in groups.
2. Students present the project in English in an effective and creative way before a panel of evaluators and an audience. Students are scored by the evaluators and the audience.
3. Latin should be used whenever possible (e.g. short oral introduction, Powerpoint slides, handouts, etc.).

4. Projects are assessed according to (potential) impact of the project on the individual or community, use of Latin when appropriate, creativity of the project itself, and effectiveness of the presentation.
5. All projects that are recognized as “distinguished” are invited to compete at the State Showcase for Best in State. Individuals attending the State Showcase have demonstrated Novice High proficiency in presentational writing and interpretive reading.

### Live Performance Events

*Live performance events are optional at the Regional Showcases.*

1. Language Bowl format is Certamen-style. For more information, see the NJCL website.
2. Language challenge events are similar to those for modern languages. Students are grouped based on their proficiency level to complete a multi-step task that allows them to use Latin in creative ways.

For additional information visit [www.kwla-online.org](http://www.kwla-online.org) or contact the Executive Director of the KWLA Showcase, Tamara Bentley-Caudill at [showcase@kwla-online.org](mailto:showcase@kwla-online.org).