



Signing Online

Providing Interactive Web-Based Instruction in American Sign Language

In order to enable Michigan schools to offer Signing Online in the classroom setting, the program is currently in the process of aligning its curriculum to the Michigan Department of Education's World Language Standards and Benchmarks. This process should make it easier for school districts in other states to determine whether or not Signing Online meets their state standards and benchmarks. The outline below provides a glance at what Signing Online will offer in correlation to Michigan's Standards and Benchmarks.

Students learning ASL should be able to...

- Understand the history of ASL, how it originated. Identify and explain three major historic events and their impact on the culture and community or country in which the language is spoken in.
- Understand the culture of deaf individuals. Identify and explain how the culture and language has expanded.
- Understand the daily routine, family structure of a deaf individual.
- Describe typical leisure activities commonly practiced by deaf individuals.
- Identify levels of instruction, courses, a typical school day- daily schedule and activities in a community for deaf individuals.
- Identify ways in which deaf individuals earn money and/or make a living.
- Identify current cultural icons in the deaf community.
- Identify historic icons in the deaf community.
- Present songs, poems, or stories in sign language (electronic presentation)
- Understand main idea of a visual media or live presentation (film/DVD, TV shows, commercials, theatre, and musical production and/or music video).
- Interact with individuals in the deaf community, engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions and exchange opinions using ASL.
- Engage in service learning projects in which students provide a service within the community for individuals who are deaf.
- Share likes and dislikes of ASL
- Identify basic differences and similarities in vocabulary between one's own language and ASL.
- Identify careers where skills using ASL or an understanding of the deaf community are needed.
- Exchange information using ASL through electronic presentations.

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Questions students of ASL should be able to answer...

- Deaf individuals do not learn all words in English language, why?
- What disadvantages do deaf individuals encounter in their daily lives?
- What advantages do deaf individuals encounter in their daily lives?
- What is it like to be deaf?
- What causes an individual to be deaf?
- How do deaf individuals interact in other cultures?