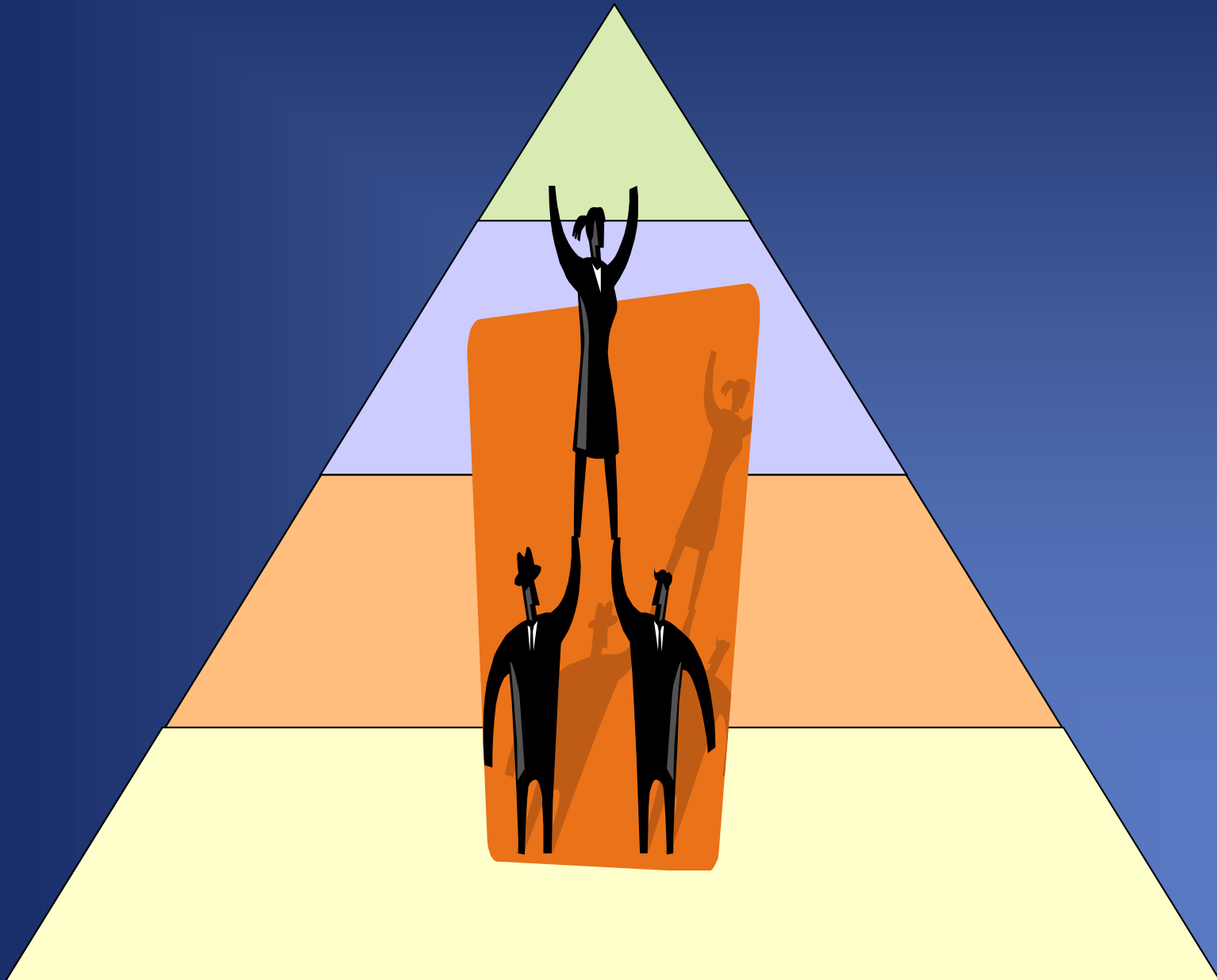


[http://www.civil.usyd.edu.au/images/
current_learning_pyramid.jpg](http://www.civil.usyd.edu.au/images/current_learning_pyramid.jpg)



“Aligning Greek Language Teaching with US National Standards”

Vasiliki Tsigas-Fotinis, Ph.D.



National Standards

- content and curriculum standards are guidelines or goals of what is expected to be taught and learned
- US Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities undertook the task of defining *content standards* -- **what students should know and be able to do** -- in foreign language education.

- In 2009, the NEW revised 3rd Edition Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century, includes targeted standards for Arabic, Chinese, Classical Languages, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.
- **“Should there be national standards for the Greek Language?”**
- **Should there be standards for Greek Language teacher training and certification?”**
- **“If so, what implications do these questions bring to light?”**

A + Ω



NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Philosophy Statement:

Language and communication are at the heart of the human experience. The United States must educate students who are linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad. This imperative envisions a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language, modern or classical. Children who come to school from non-English backgrounds should also have opportunities to develop further proficiencies in their first language.

“Why Learn Greek” **A + Ω**

- I found 13,400,000 results entries on Google

The Greek Language it states:

- From 13th Century BC "Linear B" Greek, through the "Classical Greek" of Homer, 8th century, and Plato, 4th century, to the Greek of the Bible, called "Koine Greek" or the common man's Greek, the language is a marvelous form of language, capable of exact expression and subtle nuances. Christ came when the fullness of time was here (Gal 4:4), and the universal language used to capture and record and preach his arrival and the New Testament he came to offer, was Koine Greek. Every Christian can benefit from the study of this language.

<http://www.gsbaptistchurch.com/greek/>

Questions for the Greek community

- Should we as a united Greek community join in recognizing these National Standards for Classical Languages?
- Should we develop National Standards for the Greek Language? (Modern Greek officially came to be in the 1970's)
- And the biggest question of all, who is “we” in the Greek community?



STANDARDS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING

5 C's of foreign language education:

Communication, Cultures,
Connections, Comparisons, and
Communities

COMMUNICATION

Communicate in Languages Other Than English

- **Standard 1.1:** Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions **[in the Greek language]**
- **Standard 1.2:** Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics
- **Standard 1.3:** Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Communicate in the Greek Language

- **Standard 1.1:** Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions in the Greek language.
- **Standard 1.2:** Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics
- **Standard 1.3:** Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

CULTURES

Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures

- **Standard 2.1:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied
- **Standard 2.2:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

Gain Knowledge and Understanding of the Greek Language

- **Standard 2.1:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the Greek culture past and present.
- **Standard 2.2:** Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the Greek culture.

CONNECTIONS

Connect with Other Disciplines and Acquire Information

- **Standard 3.1:** Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language [Key for Greek language; i.e., vocabulary, medicine, math, science, theater, music...]
- **Standard 3.2:** Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures

Connect with Other Disciplines, Acquire Information, and Expand Knowledge

- **Standard 3.1:** Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines and their historical development through the Greek language.
- **Standard 3.2:** Students acquire information, expand their knowledge, and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the Greek language and its culture through the ages.

COMPARISONS

Develop Insight into the Nature of Language & Culture

- **Standard 4.1:** Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own **[Identify etymological roots of many English words from the Greek Language, and understand how the English language is entering the Greek ...]**
- **Standard 4.2:** Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own. **[Culture in terms of arts, theatre, dance, music, religion, food, dress ... has many parallel and distinct conceptual frames]**

Develop Insight into Own and the Nature of Language and Culture

- **Standard 4.1:** Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.
- **Standard 4.2:** Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the Greek culture and their own.

COMMUNITIES

Participate in Multilingual Communities at Home & Around the World

- **Standard 5.1:** Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting
- **Standard 5.2:** Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment. **[Annual celebration of Greek and American Democracy on March 25.]**

Participate in Wider Communities of Language and Culture

- **Standard 5.1:** Students use their knowledge of Greek in a multilingual world.
- **Standard 5.2:** Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

Assessing Greek Language

American Classical League

- Set of syllabi & National Exam for “Attic” Greek
<http://nge.aclassics.org/>

New York Regents Exam [Accepted by New Jersey as well]

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Greek Education

- Comprehensive exam in Modern Greek, found on their web site
<http://goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/education/exam>.
- List of standards and check points of the Greek examination (in Greek) is found at:
<http://goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/education/exam/STANDARDS%20-%20CHECKPOINTS%20OF%20GREEK%20EXAMINATION%20-IN%20GREEK.pdf> .

Others ...

All parties offering Greek exams should be involved with establishing national standards for the Greek Language.

Proper preparation & training of teachers

- set of standards for Greek teacher training and certification
- American Association of Teachers of Greek?
AATG



Socrates – teacher of teachers

Federation of Hellenic Educators and Cultural Associations

An umbrella organization for a number of associations of Teachers of Greek:

Greek Teachers Association “Prometheus” of New York Metro area, Greek Teachers Association “Athena” of Illinois, Greek Teachers Association “Iliada” in Philadelphia area, Hellenic Society PROMETHEAS of Washington, DC, Saint Basil’s Academy Teachers College Alumnae Association (S.B.A.T.C.A.A.), Greek Teachers Association of Florida, St. Irene Chrysovalantou-Sacred Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery-Department of Education in New York, Greek Teachers Association “Odyssey” in Delaware, Archimedean Academy Charter School- Miami, Florida, Charter schools in North Carolina and other locations, Hellenic American Educators Association (HAEA) of New York, Hellenic-American Educators Association of New Jersey (HEANJ), and others

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL)

- united Greek Language Teachers group be members and actively participate



The Plan

- Create National Standards for the 1) Greek language, and 2) for the teacher training and certification.
- Promote and publicize the value of the Greek language as the key to multiple dimensions of thinking, feeling and being, which ultimately the professional as well the Hellenic community at large should be energized to introduce in the educational system for the 21st century.
- $A + \Omega$

National Standards have been created to begin to **improve** foreign language education in our nation's schools.

“Do we want to improve Greek Language learning in America as well?”