



Rosetta Stone and World Languages Instruction

What is the ideal use of Rosetta Stone?

Many school districts have inquired about using Rosetta Stone as a primary source of instruction for students wishing to study non-traditional world languages. The Indiana Department of Education offers a nuanced recommendation regarding the ideal use of this product.

The simple answer is that Rosetta Stone should not serve as the primary source of instruction for a credit-bearing world language course. Ideally, Rosetta Stone is used as a supplement to instruction delivered by a highly-qualified world language teacher. However, some schools wish to offer languages that their teachers are not qualified to teach. In this case, we encourage local schools and corporations to develop partnerships with community colleges, universities, and other schools in order to assess students on the full range of standards for a world language course.

Ultimately, local stakeholders should determine the appropriate use of Rosetta Stone, but the Indiana Department of Education strongly discourages the use of this program as a sit-and-get, self-sufficient method of delivering rigorous world language instruction. Students must demonstrate mastery of basic speaking as well as cultural knowledge relevant to the target language. Rosetta Stone should be only one component of ensuring that students have adequate opportunities to develop competencies that meet the expectations described in the standards for each course.

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