

Teachers as resources: further advancing ourselves and the profession



MLTAWA Professional Learning Day
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In this session:

- The teacher is the single most powerful resource in promoting the value of language learning.
- Identify and draw on our knowledge and skills in equipping ourselves for classroom and professional practice and as advocates for what we do.
- Take a critical stance and develop skills in how to describe and highlight our work.
- Consider how we can intervene in situations where we detect that languages are undervalued.

What works best in education?

John Hattie developed a way of analysing influences on students' learning according to their effect size



In "Visible Learning" (2009) he ranked 138 influences from very positive effects to very negative effects - student effort, motivation, direct instruction, problem solving approach, enrichment programs, peer influences, reducing anxiety....



The single biggest influence on student outcomes in a school...
The quality of the classroom teacher and how this person makes the learning visible

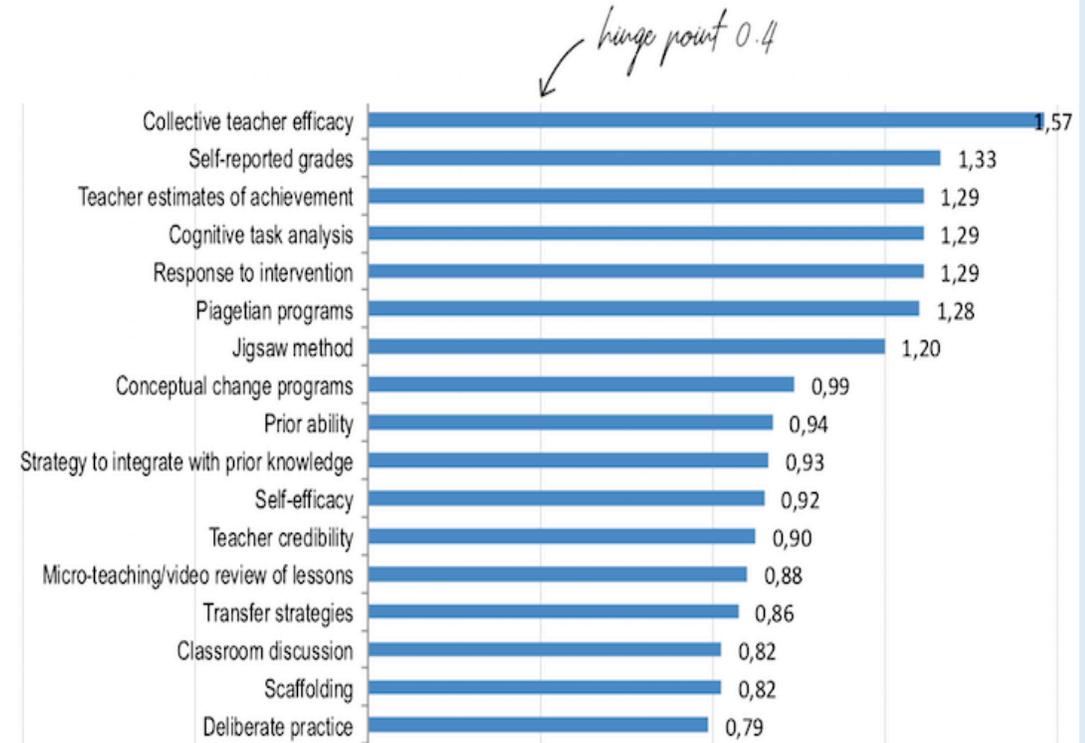
'New' biggest influence...

- 2018, Hattie presented the 'new number 1' influence based on 900 case studies
- **Collective teacher efficacy**
- Effect size (1.57) is huge - is more than two times bigger than that of feedback (0.72) and almost three times bigger than the effect of classroom management (0.52).

Hattie's 2018 updated list of factors related to student achievement: 252 influences and effect sizes (Cohen's d)

Source: J. Hattie (December 2017) visiblelearningplus.com

Diagram: S. Waack (2018) visible-learning.org



The message is crystal clear: together teachers can achieve more, especially if they collectively believe that they can do so.

The teacher is the single most powerful resource in promoting the value of language learning.

The best advocacy...

The best advocacy for languages is a successful teaching program that is intellectually stimulating, engages students and wins the respect of colleagues.

Jim Dellit (2007)

- Do you agree with this view? Why/why not?
- Are languages teachers the best people to advocate for themselves and their programs? Why/why not? Who else should/might do it?
- Is it enough for languages teachers to be 'successful' only in the classroom? Is this what Dellit means?
- Why is winning the respect of colleagues important? To which colleagues does this apply? Are there wider connections and communities that need consideration?

12 Personal attributes

Paul Witty 1947

Cooperative, democratic attitude

Kindliness and consideration to the individual

Patience

Wide interests

Personal appearance and pleasing manner

Fairness and impartiality

Sense of humour

Good disposition and consistent behaviour

Interest in pupils' problems

Flexibility

Use of recognition and praise

Unusual proficiency in a particular subject

Personal
attribute →
Professional
skill

Kindliness and consideration for the individual



Differentiated learning and differentiating the way you relate to students



About how you *are* and the relationship that you establish with kids and you need to understand a whole range of things to be able to do that well - kids with ADHD, kids who are struggling with outside issues with home structures...



Kindness is shown in the way that you expect students to perform on tasks.

Personal
attribute →
Professional skill

Fairness and impartiality

Being fair is not being the
same

Fairness in curriculum,
pedagogy and assessment

Assessment must be fair...

Personal
attribute →
Professional
skill





AFMLTA Teacher Standards

In 2005, the AFMLTA developed a suite of Professional Standards resources to support Languages teachers in reflection on practice and planning for future growth.

Teacher standards

<p><i>Educational theory and practice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Accomplished languages and cultures teachers have knowledge of child/learner development appropriate to the level at which they teach.	<p><i>Suggested questions for reflection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">What do you know about the individual learners you teach and their capabilities?How comprehensively do you understand the discipline, traditions and debates in language and culture teaching?What is the culture of the school in which you teach?What do you know about the policy and curriculum documents which are relevant to language teaching?How do you make connection with other curricular areas and with extra-curricular interests?
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Questions for reflection: ways of working with the Standards to investigate your own practice and needs

- They keep up to date with developments in the field of education through professional learning and professional reading.
- They are aware of the culture of schooling in the contexts in which they teach.

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Why have standards?

- Standards help to capture the professional nature of teachers' work
- There is value in articulating what constitutes accomplished teaching and for this to be done by the profession for the profession
- The Standards are designed to reflect the practice of accomplished teachers: that is, they reflect the highest end of the profession



Task 1

1. Using the handout, self reflect on where you would place yourself in the teacher standards.
2. To move one circle forward, what is one thing you could do?
3. To what extent do the Teacher Standards reflect what Dellit says?

AFMLTA Program Standards

- The Program Standards are descriptions of what language teachers as professionals would recognise as program conditions that would provide for students' high quality language learning experiences.
- Many teachers (of all subjects) are not teaching in ideal programs. This does not mean that the Program Standards are not relevant to them. Working to develop the quality of programs offered in schools is an important part of teachers' professional roles.
- The Program Standards are designed to assist teachers in improving the conditions in which they teach in order to improve their students' learning.

Task 2

1. Using the handout and working with at least one other person, self reflect on where you would place your program in the Program Standards.
2. To move one 'circle' forward, what is one thing you could do?



- **No-one ever says they regret learning a language**
- Challenge for schools to introduce new aspects of the curriculum.
- “I give my language teacher heaps of independence. I don’t worry about him/her because they know what they’re doing”.
- Be proud of what you do and let others know about it.

It's ok to let others know...

The General Capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century.

Arguably, more than any other learning area, Languages provides opportunity to incorporate the capabilities.

Obsession with 'literacy'

Learning another language helps develop general literacy skills. How so.....?

From the Literacy Continuum of the WA Curriculum:

- navigate, read and view simple texts with familiar vocabulary and supportive illustrations
- reflect state of wellbeing, for example contentment, joy, worry, pain
- reflect a physical state, for example hot, cold, nausea
- using beginning knowledge of layout, context, vocabulary, grammar, phonics, visuals, and simple navigating functions on tablets and personal computers

Literacy continuum...

- identifying the most effective image to include in a report
- use pair, group and class discussions and formal and informal debates as learning tools to explore ideas
- plan, research, rehearse and deliver presentations on more complex issues and learning area topics
- survey questions and reports
- identifying the most effective image to include in a report

<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/general-capabilities-over/literacy2/learning-continuum>

Obsession with Numeracy

Learning another language helps develop general numeracy skills. How so....?

From the Numeracy Continuum of the WA Curriculum

- demonstrate concepts of counting using every day experiences
- showing anticipation that something will happen on the count of 1, 2, 3
- identify situations that involve the use of money
- following actions to a song or dance

Numeracy continuum...

- using mobile phone bills to identify usage trends
- create and interpret maps, models and diagrams using a range of mapping tools
- use 12- and 24-hour systems within a multiple time zone to solve time problems
- calculating the correct time differences before phoning an overseas friend
- recording the correct time when creating a new event in a social media website

<https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/general-capabilities-over/numeracy/learning-continuum>

Reflection



The teacher is the single most powerful resource in promoting the value of language learning.



It's ok to let others know this.



It's ok to be proud of what you do and let others know the real details of it.



Think about one thing that needs to happen to make things even better. When you are able, tackle that one thing.



A positive attitude is contagious!

References

AFMLTA Professional Standards for Accomplished Teachers of Languages and Cultures
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