

PSMLA Global Scholars: Pilot Year
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Congratulations to 3 Global Scholars students in the state of Pennsylvania who graduated in 2016 with this honor at the end of the first and pilot year of the program:

Global Scholar Graduate	High School	Global Scholar Advisor
Lauren Berger	Kennard-Dale High School	Karen Snyder
Monica Buczyinski	Hempfield Area High School	Erica Shafran
Bailey Sisler	Kennard-Dale High School	Karen Snyder

This accomplishment is particularly remarkable as the PSMLA Global Scholars criteria is designed to be completed over the 4-year high school experience! It also confirms that the program truly incorporates many interdisciplinary aspects of a student's existing studies and activities to earn this distinction.

This new, innovative program is an outgrowth of a national movement to help students develop global awareness or competency and better prepare for personal and professional success in an increasingly global society. It is a free program for which PSMLA provides a template for schools to implement in their own setting. The only condition is that the school's Global Scholars advisor must be a member of PSMLA.

The PSMLA Global Scholars program, which parallels the one that just completed its 3rd year of implementation in Wisconsin and similar to ones being launched in other states, can work with or in place of other programs that also recognize the effort to develop global competence such as the International Baccalaureate or the Seal of Biliteracy.

To date, approximately a dozen high schools from across the state of Pennsylvania have registered in the PSMLA Global Scholars program with nearly 200 students participating. Upon successfully completing the criteria for the program the students will be eligible to receive a PSMLA Global Scholars certificate and honor cord for graduation.

Components of a PSMLA Global Scholars Program

These components of the Global Scholars program (all of a global nature and based on the Wisconsin model: www.globalwisconsin.org) are to be completed in grades 9-12. Please see below the modifications for small schools.

1. Academic courses - successful completion of the following (average grade of B or better):
 - a. **4 years of the same world language** (If a school offers only 3 years of a less commonly taught language, a student of that language may take 3 years of the less commonly taught language plus 1 year of another language to meet the 4-year language requirement.)
 - b. **4 additional credits toward graduation** that are already part of the school's course of study (therefore, each school would develop its own list that is unique and specific to its own curriculum) and for which a primary component is global in nature, for example:

- i. A second World Language
 - ii. World Literature
 - iii. World History
 - iv. Humanities
 - v. World Religions
 - vi. International Business
 - vii. Anthropology
 - viii. Other courses in social studies, math, the arts, theater, science, etc. if a **primary** focus is global.
2. **Active participation as confirmed by a sponsor in a variety of extra-curricular activities with a global focus (minimum of 4) such as:**
 - a. World Language Club
 - b. World Language Honor Society
 - c. School-sponsored field trips or activities that explore global aspects
 - d. Other community activity that includes a global component, as verified by the adult in the community in charge, and accepted by the school's criteria including mission trips abroad, foreign travel, etc.
 3. **Service Hours with a global focus (20 hours or an average of 5 hours per high school year, as approved by the school's Global Scholars advisor)**
 - a. Tutoring in the target language or tutoring ESL students
 - b. Volunteering to teach a world language to elementary or middle school students
 - c. Creating and implementing an original project or volunteer activity approved by the Global Scholars advisor
 4. **Review of literature/media with a global focus (minimum of 8, at least 4 of which are books)**
 - a. The literature or media must be approved and reviewed by a school's Global Scholar advisor.
 - b. Review should be in a consistent format and include specified components that are standards-based and reflect higher-level thinking skills.
 - c. Some of the works may have been studied in a course but must be reviewed using the Global Scholars format.

Modifications for Small Schools

During the 2015-2016 pilot year, PSMLA discovered that small schools were having difficulties meeting the academic requirements due to limited course offerings and scheduling conflicts. Small schools are identified as those with an enrollment of 700 or less in grades 9-12, as is consistent with the PSMLA Exemplary Program (PEP) criteria. The following modifications have been established for small schools:

1. Small schools may include the 8th grade year of second language study as part of the 4-year requirement.
2. For the 4 additional credits toward graduation: if a course is identified as including a limited and not primary global focus, a student may complete a significant project and/or presentation, approved by both the course instructor and the Global Scholars advisor, that ties other learning in the course to global issues thereby increasing the global focus to a primary part of the course for that student.

What are advantages of a Global Scholars designation?

Benefits of the PSMLA Global Scholars program include:

- There is no cost to participate.
- There is no minimum number of students who must participate.
- There is no deadline by which schools must register.
- More students may choose to continue foreign language studies to more advanced levels.
- This program is inclusive and not geared only toward gifted and financially advantaged students but for all students interested in languages and global/international studies.
- It is interdisciplinary, involves multiple departments, and facilitates communication and collaboration between departments.
- It is based on the existing courses in a school and does not require the creation of new courses.

The result could be recognition by colleges, universities, and employers, particularly since it is designed to parallel those implemented in other states.

To learn more about how to register for and implement the PSMLA Global Scholars program, attend the session at the PSMLA conference in October in Erie or go to psmla.org/global-scholars. PSMLA looks forward to recognizing increasing numbers of Pennsylvania students as Global Scholars!