

2018 STARTALK Fall Conference

Effective Participant Placement Practices in Student Programs

Arizona State University Chinese STARTALK
Program

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- ❖ Two Week Residential
- ❖ Current 8th to 12th graders
- ❖ 30 students
- ❖ 3 classes



PLACEMENT AT THE APPLICATION STAGE

- ❖ Complete language background information form
 - ❖ Family language background
 - ❖ Prior learning experience
 - ❖ Self-assessment
- ❖ Conduct phone interview



PLACEMENT ON THE CHECK-IN DAY

- Conduct placement test
 - Written test
 - Oral interview
- Make the placement



PLACEMENT DURING THE FIRST THREE DAYS

- Observe students' learning carefully in class
- Check students' learning carefully outside of class
- Make necessary adjustments

CHALLENGES

- No perfect placement test
- Student and parent expectations vs. program goals
- Students' unwillingness to be re-placed

LESSONS LEARNED

- Adopt a variety of measures
- Communicate with students and parents about placement issue
- Determine students' level the sooner the better
- Set rules
- Provide additional help

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