



Cosponsor the World Language Advancement Act (H.R. 3096)

The World Language Advancement Act (WLAA), H.R.3096, is bipartisan legislation introduced in the House by Representatives by David Price (D-NC), Leonard Lance (R-NJ), Joe Crowley (D-NY) and Don Young (R-AK) on July 16, 2015.

Background: World language learning is a critical component of student development, national security and economic growth. Students who study languages:

- Perform better on standardized tests;¹
- Demonstrate improved cognitive development and skills;²
- Perform better across other subject areas;³
- Increase their openness to other languages and cultures and;⁴
- Improve their earning potential later in life.⁵

The World Language Advancement Act:

- Creates a competitive grant program for states and local school districts to establish, improve or expand innovative K-12 language programs to give more students access to quality world language learning.
- Gives special consideration to grant applications for programs that:
 - Include intensive summer programs for professional development of world language teachers;
 - Promote sequential learning, two-way language learning, and innovative activities;
 - Make effective use of technology;
 - Are carried out through a consortium comprised of the grant recipient and an elementary or secondary school.

¹ Wayne P. Thomas, Virginia P. Collier and Karyn Collier. (2010). English Learners in North Carolina. North Carolina Department of Education.

² Garfinkel, A., & Tabor, K. E. (1991). Elementary school foreign languages and English reading achievement: A new view of the relationship. *Foreign Language Annals*, 24(5), 375-382. From Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts database.

³ Taylor, C. & Lafayette, R. (2010). Academic achievement through FLES: A case for promoting greater access to foreign language study among young learners. *The Modern Language Journal*, 94 (1), 22-42.

⁴ Heining-Boynton, A. L., Haitema, T. (2007). A ten-year chronicle of student attitudes toward foreign language in the elementary school. *Modern Language Journal*, 91(2), 149-168.

⁵ Saiz, A. & Zoido, E. (2005). Listening to what the world says: Bilingualism and earnings in the United States. *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 87, (3), 523-538.