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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

We, the undersigned, as educators and supporters of world language instruction, do petition the Connecticut General Assembly to reinstate a high school graduation requirement of 2.0 credits for world language study as originally proposed in A Superior Education for Connecticut's 21st Century Learners: Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for Education 2006-2011. In today's interdependent global economy and our current economic crisis, companies will look elsewhere to conduct business and hire workers if our students do not have the skills to compete *and* collaborate with people from around the world. Learning another language places our students on the fast track to working effectively with people from other cultures. A high school foreign language requirement would help put our citizens and our state back on the road to long-term economic prosperity. For further information, please go to: Languages for Life! We hope we can count on your support. Thank you for your time and attention.

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 768: Feb 22, 2009, **Denise Neumaler, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
From providing students with more "brain power" to empowering them to succeed in an ever-shrinking world with an ever-connecting economy, the need for Americans to expand their language skills screams for recognition! Did the untranslated tapes preceding 9.11 teach us nothing? Do the economic connections that are daily so evident show us nothing? We are not an island, something most other nations easily recognize. As a world language teacher I have fought an uphill battle to have the importance of language learning understood, yet here we are again, on the chopping block. Please, please won't you "get it." Human relations require communication, and communication requires an understanding of the nature, background, ethic, and culture of the ones with whom you wish to communicate. The time students spend in a world language classroom is time spent on building bridges, breaking down misconceptions, celebrating differences, and confronting pre-judgments. In today's world, how essential it is that we reach out to others, and how better to do that than to speak to them in their own language. Please, re-instate the requirement for world language study. There is nothing quite like it in the world!
- # 767: Feb 22, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 766: Feb 22, 2009, **Tess Grous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 765: Feb 22, 2009, **Bert Neumaler, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
A world language increases the ability of today's youth to both communicate on a first hand basis with other peoples in the world as well as increase our students' perspectives of the diverse cultures around the world. World language learning must be a requirement for CT students in order for them to be well equipped global citizens.
- # 764: Feb 22, 2009, **Adam Vnuk, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 763: Feb 22, 2009, **Nancy McGrath, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 762: Feb 22, 2009, **Scott Dunn, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
With an increased focus on 21st century skills, proficiency in myriad languages is paramount for survival, communication and growth as global citizens. By instituting a world language requirement, we approach that goal with certainty and depth.

- # 761: Feb 22, 2009, **Diane Ullman, Connecticut**  Delete
Please ensure that CT studnets are ready to participate in a global economy. Reinstate the Worls Language graduation requirement.
- # 760: Feb 22, 2009, **Marjorie Miller, California**  Delete
Foreign language skills are critical. What's next to go? Music, art, history, math?
- # 759: Feb 22, 2009, **Laura Lundgren, Connecticut**  Delete
In order to compete successfully in a global economy, it will be critical in the near future that our work force be able to communicate in more than one world language. World language education, therefore, should be a critical component of a secondary education.
- # 758: Feb 21, 2009, **Vanessa Sosa, Connecticut**  Delete
Our students need to be citizens of the world, need to better understand other cultures and respect them. We need well rounded citizens.
- # 757: Feb 21, 2009, **Rita Oleksak, Massachusetts**  Delete
In an effort to be an informed citizen in a globally shrinking world, it is imperative that all students have the opportunity to study at least one language in addition to their native language from the earliest grade possible and for as long as possible. The minimal goal of advanced low by time one graduates from high school is what we should be aiming for all of our children.
- # 756: Feb 21, 2009, **Carlos Lopez, Connecticut**  Delete
I believe that eliminating foreign languages in school is doing a major disservice to our students and future learners. This students are our natural resource that will be involved with global world affairs. They are our future leaders and need to understand and communicate with world leaders in their native tongues. I strongly believe that learning a second language is very important in different aspects; it enhances one's appreciation for other people's culture, customs. I am a strong believer that learning a second language is very important for different aspects, it enhances one's appreciation for other people's cultural, customs, we can't continue to have a one dimension vision about what would our neighbor countries be like! I also feel that learning a second language will make anybody more marketable and an asset to any employer or organization.
- # 755: Feb 21, 2009, **Luis R Vazquez, Connecticut**  Delete
The knowledge of a foreign language helps us grow in many levels personal and professional. It also opens doors.
- # 754: Feb 21, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 753: Feb 21, 2009, **Alba Osorio, Connecticut**  Delete
I come from a country where every kid at school takes two languages every day. It is a requisite to graduate from High School and even in College students need to take two years of the two languages as part of the basic courses. Now living in United States, I want my kids to have the same opportunity to learn an additional language than the English and the Spanish spoken at home. It is a shame that we talk about globalization and having our students be citizens of the world and not offering all of them the opportunities to learn languages and the understanding of different cultures.
- # 752: Feb 21, 2009, **Wendy Kwas, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 751: Feb 19, 2009, **Lynda Harding, United Kingdom**  Delete
- # 750: Feb 18, 2009, **Maria-Covadonga Arango-Martin, Connecticut**  Delete
In a global world like the one we live in, it is very important that students get exposed to another cultures and languages. Many of them will pursue a college degree, and for that, a foreign language is a requirement. It is always a plus to know another language
- # 749: Feb 18, 2009, **Megan Sawyer, Connecticut**  Delete
FL should most certainly be a graduation requirement! They are so vital in our society. As citizens of all countries become more and more diverse, everyone should be able to communicate and learn from one another. FL in high school gives students that ability and it exposes them to various cultures and new ideas.
- # 748: Feb 14, 2009, **Soraya Martino, Connecticut**  Delete
FL should be a requirement for graduation because our children need to be exposed to a different language. It's essential when they are going to apply to a college. Besides, the FL should be just like any other subject (math or reading) starting in ELEMENTARY; studies has shown that students who take a FL language score higher in standardized tests. These students not only learn the FL but also ABOUT the FL and perphas the CULTURE. Having FL in elementary is the KEY to a successful child in the 21st CENTURY!!!
- # 747: Feb 14, 2009, **Raffaele Abbate, Connecticut**  Delete
It is fundamental to the better education of an individual to learn a different language. Studies have shown many benefits. However, for an individual this is often understood at a later age therefore as mature adults we have a responsibility not to simply encourage but induce young students to learn a different language as through the process of learning a new language and a new culture, they will become more open minded and this could lead to their interest in becoming fluent and therefore more competitive in the job market, an essential element in this highly competitive world economy.
- # 746: Feb 13, 2009, **Jay Carney, Connecticut**  Delete
Global economy. Increase in multi lingual communities nationally. Diplomacy
- # 745: Feb 13, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete

Research abounds with evidence supporting the very positive impact that foreign language study exerts on all aspects of student learning. Examples include enhanced cognitive development, listening, and memory skills, higher academic achievement, greater mental flexibility, creativity, and higher order thinking. Learning a second language strengthens first language proficiency, raises standardized test scores, in fact, the more years of study, the higher the scores, and enhances college admission qualifications. Second language learners develop positive attitudes toward cultural diversity and significantly expand their career opportunities in today's competitive, increasingly global society and market. Former Secretary of Education, Rod Paige - "Foreign language instruction should be a part of every child's education. A language is more than sounds and syntax: it is a culture, a way of thinking, and a perspective on the world. Each language is a precious resource that must be studied, used, and preserved precisely because a language opens the mind to new possibilities. The study of language is the study of life, literature, history, and thought. It is nothing less than the study of our world and ourselves."

- # 744: Feb 15, 2009, **Mary Lou Montanye, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 743: Feb 13, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
U.S. students should be as competitive with their International peers. Connecticut students should also be able to effectively interact with people who live in the United States who speak other languages. Our nation exists within an increasingly global society. Learning world languages benefit students.
- # 742: Feb 12, 2009, **Elaine Condon, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 741: Feb 12, 2009, **Anonymous, Wisconsin**  Delete
- # 740: Feb 11, 2009, **Stefania Lucamante, Washington D.C.**  Delete
- # 739: Feb 11, 2009, **Yvonne Conti-o'brien, Connecticut**  Delete
Our students need to be able to hold their heads high in a competitive job market. Other countries require that their students know 3, 4 even 5 languages! Why not students in this country? Foreign Language must be made mandatory in our schools.
- # 738: Feb 11, 2009, **Amy Harkenreader, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 737: Feb 11, 2009, **Eileen Moreno, Connecticut**  Delete
I learned Spanish in CT, starting in High School and it opened a whole world of opportunities for me. Today I am a certified teacher, grades 7-12 of Spanish and Social Studies and my life is richer and fuller for all my Spanish experiences. Don't give away the edge that language provides for our students!
- # 736: Feb 11, 2009, **Virginia Berg, Connecticut**  Delete
As a teacher of Spanish and French and the grandchild of Italian immigrants, I realize the importance of learning another language. Everyone of us here is an immigrant from somewhere. With the internet bringing the world of business, entertainment and the social world closer, we all need to be able to understand and help each other. In addition, learning a world language teaches grammar, something most English speakers today lack. I teach English grammar to my students as well as word derivation so they will become good English readers. Why should we go backwards in education instead of forwards. Eliminate the computers first. More students need to read and write than they do need to play video games. Our children need to understand everyone and learning a language helps to bridge that gap as well as giving them an awareness that they are not the only point of view in the universe. Thank you
- # 735: Feb 11, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
We live in an ever increasingly global world. Americans need to know how to speak other languages and know about other cultures. We are behind most other developed countries in language learning. Please World Language a graduation requirement.
- # 734: Feb 11, 2009, **Chris Lewis, Connecticut**  Delete
Our country will only be fully competitive in the world and our society will only be fully civilized when its citizens are proficient in languages other than English.
- # 733: Feb 11, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 732: Feb 11, 2009, **Carol Bonomo, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 731: Feb 10, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 730: Feb 10, 2009, **Maureen Holland, Connecticut**  Delete
we can't expect to succeed with out any experience with other countries cultures. Language is a key aspect to life and communication.
- # 729: Feb 10, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
How can anyone expect America's students to be competitive in a global market without proficiency in a second language? Every other country in the world educates its students from elementary school on in second and even third languages. Come on, Connecticut. This is otherwise an educated state. Do not use lack of teachers as a reason not to include a foreign language requirement. Just train more teachers!
- # 728: Feb 10, 2009, **Elaine Zerlo, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign language is important because it makes our students worldly and more marketable. We are lagging behind the rest of the world in foreign languages.
- # 727: Feb 10, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete

All students should be required to learn a foreign language. It will broaden their world view and connect them with other cultures beyond our own.

- # 726: Feb 10, 2009, **Rachel Thomas-Shapiro, Connecticut**  Delete
Besides the obvious issues with a global economy and having students be able to communicate with people in other parts of the world, a foreign language helps their English-language skills; increases their vocabulary by helping them understand word-roots; betters their grammar as they learn the nuances in another voice.
- # 725: Feb 10, 2009, **Ann Levesque, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 724: Feb 9, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 723: Feb 9, 2009, **Maryann Bennett, Rhode Island**  Delete
Exposing children to different cultures and people in our world is extremely important. They need to know and realize there are many types of people in the world - promotes awareness of others!!!
- # 722: Feb 9, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Speaking a foreign language in our global society promotes growth for all citizens of this world.
- # 721: Feb 9, 2009, **Barbara Place, Connecticut**  Delete
It is not just learning to communicate with other peoples and increasing our understanding of their cultures and of our own language, but it also enables our students to have a world view. A language teacher in a rural town was asked why his students would have to learn another language since they would never travel, and he replied that is precisely why!
- # 720: Feb 9, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Our world is getting smaller and smaller and easier to contact people all over the world. People should know AT LEAST ONE additional language. For communication as well as respect for those travelling/living in your own country or abroad and the challenge to learn this 2nd language and respect of other cultures!
- # 719: Feb 9, 2009, **Elizabeth Pecruh, Connecticut**  Delete
If we want to be considered Global Citizens then we must prepare our students for their role in this world. Two years of foreign languages in high school is the minimum we should be requiring.
- # 718: Feb 9, 2009, **Patricia Antunez, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning a language breaks down barriers between cultures and advances understanding and thought between people. It stretches the mind in creative ways and opens new worlds of literature, art, cuisine, and history. Please don't drop the level of language that has previously done CT students well.
- # 717: Feb 9, 2009, **Robin Miller, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 716: Feb 9, 2009, **Jennifer Davidson, Connecticut**  Delete
The job of high schools is to prepare our students for their future. Given the increasing internationalization of our world (especially in business), our students will be disadvantaged if they do not know other languages and if they do not have cultural awareness of other parts of the world. World Language needs to be part of the high school core curriculum. Otherwise, Connecticut's high school will not be doing their job.
- # 715: Feb 9, 2009, **Anna Andrews, Connecticut**  Delete
My students at American School for the Deaf, as well as my own 2 children, have benefited greatly from the study of a foreign language. Learning about another language and culture not only broadens their understanding of the world and the global economy in which we are now living, but also increases understanding of the English language and our own culture.
- # 714: Feb 9, 2009, **John Hagan, Connecticut**  Delete
The acquisition of a foreign language opens many doors for students. It is a valuable tool that makes them far more marketable as employees.
- # 713: Feb 9, 2009, **Beth Manners, Connecticut**  Delete
My daughter is now a college freshman and has had many opportunities because she studied French and Spanish in high school.
- # 712: Feb 9, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
With today's globalization, our children must have the foundation for communicating in a global market. Removing the foreign language program from the graduation requirement would close doors for their future.
- # 711: Feb 9, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
FL study is a fundamental part of education in the 21st century. We live in a global society, and it is our responsibility to prepare students with the necessary language skills to be successful!
- # 710: Feb 7, 2009, **Rebecca Miller, Connecticut**  Delete
Studying a foreign language increases a child's sensitivity to words and language, and allows her to see things from a viewpoint different than the one from which she has interpreted the world for her entire life. In this way, studying a foreign language opens a child's mind to new ways of thinking. The study of a foreign culture, which goes hand in hand with studying that culture's language, reinforces tolerance and acceptance of differences. Tolerance and acceptance of differences are concepts necessary to succeed in this world of diverse beliefs, values, and practices in which we all live, and which today's children will inherit sooner than we can imagine. On a

final note, please consider that, if a student is not proficient in a foreign language after following a high school program, the program is not a complete failure. If we consider students' proficiency a test of whether or not a high school foreign language program is valuable, I believe that we would find most programs to be invaluable, simply because it takes much more time, dedication, and interest in the subject than many of our students have to become proficient in a foreign language. A better test of the value of a program would be to evaluate its ability to teach students about the wonder of language, foreign or native, and acceptance of differences.

- # 709: Feb 9, 2009, **Carolina Gieczewski, Connecticut** 
The United States is behind other industrialized countries and even third world countries in this aspect. It is fundamental that our children start learning other languages in early childhood. A foreign language graduation requirement should be a given.

- # 708: Feb 8, 2009, **Jesus Johnl Puerta-Lopez, Connecticut** 
We not have better subject to prepare our kids to know challenges around of the world that to understand different languages, to have good communication to live better without barriers. I totally believe that it is important for our kids in the U.S. to study foreign languages.

- # 707: Feb 8, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
Having completed my secondary education in Europe and having had to study more than two foreign languages, it is only normal for me to see a foreign language requirement in high school here in the United States. The power of languages has only broadened my horizon and I would only want to see other people experience what I have experienced. Learning a second language helps not only understand and communicate with other people but also understand another culture. Unfortunately we should do this way earlier, when our brains can absorb this information quite easier. Not to forget, in a global economy, not everything revolves around English and that is exactly what we make our students believe if we don't put an importance on a FL requirement for graduation. I think it is very important to know at least one other world language in order to succeed in today's society and the earlier one acquires it the better.

- # 706: Feb 8, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
I am an American Sign Language high school teacher. I feel it is very important to have a language requirement in order to graduate high school for many reasons far beyond just being exposed to a different language and culture, which the United States prides itself on embracing. I work with students who struggle with their major subject areas. For many of my students learning ASL has given them a new confidence. They have found a way to express themselves, build relationships with students they wouldn't normally interact with and a place where they feel successful. If there was not a foreign language requirement many of these children would have never had this experience.

- # 705: Feb 8, 2009, **Magali Hannegan, Connecticut** 
I URGE RECONSIDERATION OF THE OMISSION OF A WORLD LANGUAGE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT AS DOCUMENTED IN THE REPORT OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE'S FINAL PLAN DRAFT (passed 10/2/08) FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: • "Living and competing successfully in a global society and economy will require an understanding of our interconnectedness." (CT State Board of Education) • Interconnectedness is uniquely fostered through foreign language study in two ways: to express oneself in a different language and to understand aspects of a culture different from one's own is to internalize differences as just that—differences not judgments; that is, foreign language study breaks one's ethnocentricity, fostering an openness to others different from ourselves. • Studies conducted in middle and high schools indicate that foreign language study improves test scores in social studies, language arts, and math and verbal portions of the SAT. (Cooper, 1987; Garfunkel and Tabor, 1991) • "... In order to confront the 21st century challenges to our economy and national security, our education system must be strengthened to enhance the foreign language skills and cultural awareness of our students." (CT Committee for Economic Development) • International trade is an important engine of growth for Connecticut. 1200 foreign owned companies have chosen to invest in CT (CBI); to interact in that business community it is an asset to speak their languages, to know about our own cultural style and how that style meshes with the cultures of others. Mike Eskew, CEO of UPS, talks about needing workers who are "global trade literate, sensitive to foreign cultures, conversant in different languages". (Time, Dec. 10, 2006) • In 2006 the Center for Economic Development warned of economic and national security implications of the U.S. language gap, stating: "To compete successfully in the global marketplace, both U.S.-based multinational corporations as well as small businesses increasingly need employees with knowledge of foreign languages and cultures to market products to customers around the globe and to work effectively with foreign employees and partners in other countries. For example, foreign language skills and knowledge of other cultures can prove invaluable when working on global business teams or negotiating with overseas clients." (http://www.ced.org/docs/report/report_foreignlanguages.pdf) • "Apart from an early start and a well-articulated program, a strong policy in support of language instruction is the most influential factor in creating and sustaining language programs. In all European countries, at least one foreign language is compulsory." (Research by the Center for Applied Linguistics) • Scarcity of math and science teachers has not led to omission of graduation requirements. Scarcity of foreign language teachers should not be a reason for omission of a foreign language graduation requirement that provides skills for interconnectedness and intercultural communication. (See Ad-Hoc Committee's Final Report, p. 16) • Existing disparity in the delivery of (foreign language) programs, if true, is not unique to this curriculum area and is not a reason to devalue a program by eliminating a graduation requirement. Disparity can exist in all curricula areas and the responsibility for consistent quality programs lies with policy makers and educational leaders. (See Ad-Hoc Committee's Final Report, p. 16) • Foreign language proponents and administrators were not given an opportunity to consult and collaborate with the Ad Hoc Committee during their work as was the case with Fine Arts and Physical Education. (See Ad-Hoc Committee's Final Report) Thank you, Magali Hannegan

- # 704: Feb 8, 2009, **Kit Hastings-Kort, Connecticut** 
I believe that it is of vital importance that all students in the U.S. be required to study a foreign language. As a nation of immigrants we can not isolate ourselves from the rest of the world by thinking that we can function well in a global society without knowing something about other cultures and other languages. It is important to our national security and our economy that we understand the importance of how other people in the world think and develop. Making it optional for students to learn a second language is like telling students that it is ok to be like ostriches and stick their heads in the sand.

- # 703: Feb 8, 2009, **Catherine Fisk Natale, Connecticut** 
Fluency in at least one language other than English is a critical component of creating citizens able to interact with others in a global economy--economically, culturally, and politically. It's not just about learning language skills, but also becoming culturally literate. World language instruction needs to be a K-12 experience with opportunities for students to learn more than one language.

- # 702: Feb 8, 2009, **Jesse Duguay, Connecticut** 
With today's American society being such a melting pot of different cultures and backgrounds, having some experience in a language other than English is crucial to everybody's ability to be able to understand one another.

- # 701: Feb 8, 2009, **Laura Santelli, Connecticut** 

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the Importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 700: Feb 7, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
I am a high school student and I think that a foreign language requirement is a must! Studying a foreign language has truly enriched my life in many aspects. I have so many more opportunities as well as experiences because I speak another language. I don't want any student to be denied the amazing benefits of foreign language study!
- # 699: Feb 7, 2009, **Chris Ince Jr., California** [Delete](#)
- # 698: Feb 6, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 697: Feb 6, 2009, **Per Urlaub, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
No other academic subject prepares our children better to understand the global and domestic challenges of the 21st century better than the study world languages and cultures. This nation is in dire need of minds that have the ability to think outside the box and reflect in a nuanced way on their own culture and this nation's unique achievements and challenges. A high and sophisticated level of self-reflexivity relies on our children's linguistic abilities and global insights. A public school system in a civil-society has a moral responsibility to foreign language education, so that all children -- regard of their socio-economic class -- have a chance to develop the necessary skills to gain global citizenship. If public schools sacrifice a the foreign language requirement due to a temporary budgetary situation, they abandon a century-old mission of preparing students for a rich and effective life. Dr. Per Urlaub, New Haven
- # 696: Feb 6, 2009, **Lisa Henriquez, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
The students at my high school are not required to take a foreign language. After graduation they have to spend their summers taking language courses for that missing credit needed for entrance into many colleges. I have seen many students transfer BECAUSE there is no language offered here at this school. The students who are bilingual because of their family heritage/culture always have the advantage in scholarships and applications. The ability to speak a second language is an incredible asset to them.
- # 695: Feb 5, 2009, **Maria Palandra, New York** [Delete](#)
Limiting the study of foreign languages is tantamount to limiting educational and career opportunities for our students.
- # 694: Feb 5, 2009, **Liliana Ortega, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Foreign language requirement is important due to the increasing demand of multiculturalism that our society demands. Language connects, speaking a foreign language brings people of different background closer...think peace. "We are a tribal society" (comment of a representative of the Hartford Foundation during a discussion about why minorities in the US should network first in their own groups).

- Feb 5, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
We live in a global world not isolated by one language. Spanish is the fastest growing language in the USA!! We must be more competitive globally or we will see no end to the recession!
- # 692: Feb 5, 2009, **Christine Mattel Mattel, Connecticut**  Delete
Not only is study of another language important to all students graduating in high school, study should begin in kindergarten! We need to do all we can to give our children a global awareness of the 21st century they live in!
- # 691: Feb 5, 2009, **D'Arcy DORNAN, Connecticut**  Delete
In an ever increasing globalized society, the value and importance of languages becomes critical to the continued success of our students as they graduate into a highly mobile, multi-national, multi-lingual workforce. Dr. D'Arcy DORNAN Assistant Director, Tourism and Hospitality Program Assistant Professor, Department of Geography Central Connecticut State University Gubernatorial Appointee, Advisory Commission on American and Francophone Cultural Affairs Tel: 1 860 832 2782, Fax: 1 860 832 3140
- # 690: Feb 5, 2009, **Paul KUEFFNER, Connecticut**  Delete
In an expanding world marketplace it makes no sense to be moving backwards on learning to communicate with and understand other cultures. Science and Math are already requirements. Perhaps their study could be made more efficient, instead of more bloated.
- # 689: Feb 5, 2009, **Louis Bayman, United Kingdom**  Delete
- # 688: Feb 5, 2009, **Thomas McGinnis, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 687: Feb 4, 2009, **Taylor Strack, Connecticut**  Delete
Yes, I absolutely agree that proficiency in a foreign language should count towards high school graduation! We just need to make sure that FL proficiency standards are equivalent to already existing high school course standards. This is not that hard!
- # 686: Feb 4, 2009, **Katherine Kidd, Washington D.C.**  Delete
Although I now live in Washington, DC, both my daughters graduated from high school in Connecticut. Both of them went on to gain fluency in another language - building on their experiences at Fairfield High School. One spent two years in the Peace Corps and the other studied abroad for a year in Spain and uses her Spanish daily in her work with youth in the Boston area. Please don't cut this vital learning experience. We need to be more globally aware - not less. Katherine Mancke Kidd, Ph.D.
- # 685: Feb 4, 2009, **Kate Christolini, Connecticut**  Delete
Not only should this be a high school requirement, but let's go one further. Learning another language really should start in Kindergarten!
- # 684: Feb 4, 2009, **Kelly Thurston, Connecticut**  Delete
With a fast changing world, knowing a new talent gives us an edge. The world is and will continue to be very competitive. Therefore, it is important to note that we do all we can to stay one step ahead. Other countries learn English so they can travel and communicate and we should learn other things to get ourselves ahead as well.
- # 683: Feb 4, 2009, **Anonymous, Puerto Rico**  Delete
I think students should take other language in school, because would be easier for them when they take a job. Actually, we have youngers getting married earlier and want to work to feed their family. Knowing a second language at high school will facilitate their quality of life. The reality is that each year less students are studying at university level. If you need any other input from me, you could write to padialc@yahoo.com. Thank you to let me participate on this petition.
- # 682: Feb 4, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 681: Feb 4, 2009, **Jule Michel, Connecticut**  Delete
Today I heard in a speech from a congresswoman that America is the most civilized country in the world. Did she ever tell that no European country allows capital punishment? That nobody loses health insurance coverage when losing their job? And so on) - I am often shocked about the ignorance or lack of education and information of American citizens and I strongly believe that being exposed to another world language can help to close this embarrassing gap in the American awareness.
- # 680: Feb 4, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Speaking another language open student's minds to other cultures.
- # 679: Feb 4, 2009, **Laurie Barry, Connecticut**  Delete
East Lyme High School is one of the few high schools in the state to have a 2 year foreign language requirement. I believe that this requirement has helped East Lyme High to be one of the top high schools in the country. Our students are global citizens, and appreciate the cultural differences in our world. I am proud to work for East Lyme High School, and I respectfully ask that you reinstate the 2 year foreign language high school graduation requirement for all Connecticut students.
- # 678: Feb 4, 2009, **Carmino Paolino, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 677: Feb 4, 2009, **Marla Guijarro, Connecticut**  Delete
I believe that we need a second language to keep us competing with other countries in the global economy. To open doors in other markets and job opportunities.

- # 676: Feb 4, 2009, **Marlam Hakim-Zargar, Connecticut**  Delete
With globalization, our children need to be educated in other languages and cultures. It is reasonable to require all students to learn at least one foreign language. In Finland, children learn 5 foreign languages. In most European countries children learn at least 2 foreign languages. Most US states require FL for high school graduation.
- # 675: Feb 4, 2009, **Andrew Walsh, Connecticut**  Delete
In a global economy it is increasingly important to have citizens who know a second language. A lack of science or math teachers has not led to the lack of a science or math requirement, so there is no reasoning behind the lack of language teachers being used as an excuse for having no language requirement.
- # 674: Feb 4, 2009, **Nathalie St. Andre, Connecticut**  Delete
Our global economy and social interaction really demands it and knowing another language opens new ways of thinking and of looking at the world.
- # 673: Feb 4, 2009, **Simon Welfenbach, New York**  Delete
- # 672: Feb 4, 2009, **Paul Giblin, Connecticut**  Delete
It is the one part missing from the core of a well-rounded education in our high schools. The idea that a student only needs Math, Science, English, and some Social Studies, but not world language, is no longer valid in the 21st century. Young adults are going to need to know languages other than English in the years to come if we want to stay competitive in the world.
- # 671: Feb 4, 2009, **Lisa Morrill, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 670: Feb 4, 2009, **Beth Schwartz, Connecticut**  Delete
We need to instill in our students the responsibility we have to our shrinking world...we need to be able to communicate effectively with other countries to improve the stability of our world and of our own country...students need to have a foundation of learning a foreign language, begun in elementary, middle and high school. With the elimination of a two year graduation requirement, we are moving backward instead of forward in a time where foreign relations are so critical..
- # 669: Feb 4, 2009, **Alice Verlezza, Massachusetts**  Delete
Foreign language opens up the rest of the world for our country's students. They are able to learn about other cultures and, in doing so, teachers can foster a mentality of tolerance, acceptance, and even curiosity. The opportunities awaiting them upon graduation are much more vast when they are armed with the knowledge of another language.
- # 668: Feb 4, 2009, **Becky Regan, Rhode Island**  Delete
As a foreign language teacher at the middle school level, I see first hand the importance of learning a foreign language. The US is one of the only countries that does not have students learning their 3rd foreign language in schools. Having a foreign language graduation requirement will keep our students motivated to attend colleges, as well. Most colleges require at least 2 years of a high school foreign language for consideration to that school.
- # 667: Feb 4, 2009, **Simon Elsinger, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 666: Feb 4, 2009, **Kimberly Wilson-Holton, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 665: Feb 4, 2009, **Caroline Webster, Connecticut**  Delete
I studied two foreign languages in high school 60 years ago. The recall in occasional brush-up courses has enabled me to use my skills for practical purposes and to express sincere interest in the lives of other people. Foreigners are so heartened when English speakers know their language!
- # 664: Feb 4, 2009, **Eileen Flore, Rhode Island**  Delete
This requirement secures the relevance of language learning in today's global community- it is in the best interest of our students!
- # 663: Feb 4, 2009, **Nancy Hendryx, Connecticut**  Delete
World languages are a tremendously enriching educational experience that teaches children about other cultures, they allow them to interact more fully with the rest of the world and engage in the "bigger picture." Not only that, but they have literally been proved to make people "smarter" because of the synaptic connections formed during language learning. They are a vital part of a child's education!
- # 662: Feb 4, 2009, **Vita Marcone, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 661: Feb 4, 2009, **Artur Branco, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 660: Feb 4, 2009, **Rosemarie Carvalho, Connecticut**  Delete
In today's global world, we must realize that English is not the only language of importance. In order for the U.S. to better communicate with the world, the knowledge of other languages is an essential component.
- # 659: Feb 4, 2009, **Paul M. St. Louis, Massachusetts**  Delete
How are we to expect today's youth to survive in a global society if they cannot communicate with people who speak another language? World language education should be required of all students and should begin as early as kindergarten.

- # 658: Feb 3, 2009, **Elise Leung, Connecticut**  Delete
I strongly believe that the learning of other languages and cultures is extremely important for our children. Having an understanding of the world and being able to communicate not only offers more opportunities in life but also decreases bias and racism. Both myself and my husband were educated in other countries where learning and speaking a second language was not only necessary but essential to our education. At present our daughter is taking French in high school and voluntarily chose to study German. I have seen a significant growth in her confidence and a desire to become a world citizen. She is the sort of person who will change the future and lead others through her desire to learn. All children should be required to learn a second language, according to studies, it has been shown that learning a second language results in students achieving greater divergent thinking, creativity, and cognitive development compared to monolingual children. A number of studies have also shown that when students learn a second language they have a tendency of outscoring those who are proficient in only a single language on tests of nonverbal and verbal intelligence. Please support this measure.
- # 657: Feb 3, 2009, **Nicky Blenlarz, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 656: Feb 3, 2009, **Katherine Hughes, Oregon**  Delete
- # 655: Feb 3, 2009, **Connie Devine, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 654: Feb 3, 2009, **Kristine Bibler, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning a foreign language is not only a valuable resource for our people to have in this turbulent global economy, being fluent in more languages than English raises the level and image of our nation around the world. It also increases the intelligence of the individual learning the language and raises their confidence and understanding of while working with people of other cultures.
- # 653: Feb 3, 2009, **Hanna Krol, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 652: Feb 3, 2009, **I.V. Krieg, Connecticut**  Delete
It's very important for children to know their heritage. Learning another language increases your perspective. Learning to speak German is very important, not only from the stand point that 80 million Americans can trace their roots there. But also because Germany is the worlds second largest exporter.
- # 651: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete

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BOOKMARK

Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

768
signatures!

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Thank you! You signed at 2:07 PM PST, Jan 21, 2009
You can do more! [Show me more petitions >](#)

We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 650: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 649: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 648: Feb 3, 2009, **Carlo Sclafani, New York** [Delete](#)
Do not eliminate the study of Foreign Languages in the State of Connecticut. They are too important in the world today. If you don't speak a foreign language today in the world, it means you are poorly educated and you lack that human sensibility to understand and participate in the world's family.
- # 647: Feb 3, 2009, **Jeremy Bennett, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
I support language faculty at Yale, and help them use technology to teach language. While only two years of a 2nd language before college is far from ideal (the best time is to start as young as possible) it can be an opportunity for exposure and a look into another culture. Having only taken two years of language in high school myself (in Montana), it was the thing that inspired me toward a BA in Spanish, (at the University of Montana), without which I would not be working at Yale. Requiring two years of language would be a small yet significant step in the right direction for the future of the students in Connecticut, to not only succeed abroad, but at home as well.
- # 646: Feb 3, 2009, **Christopher Gauld, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Knowledge is power!
- # 645: Feb 3, 2009, **Martha LoMonaco, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
American citizens are becoming more and more insular and English-language centric; we need to ensure that their horizons are spread at the earliest age possible.
- # 644: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
My mother is from Germany and my father received his PhD in France (he speaks French, German, as well as other languages). I took four years of French in High School because German wasn't offered and I believe it's an important thing to learn (culture as well as the language) before going off to college or getting a full time job or whatever is done after graduating high school.
- # 643: Feb 3, 2009, **Hector Mirabal, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Acquiring a second language is critical in a multicultural society such as the United States. Knowing more than one language opens doors and minds, contributes to the good relationship between people of different backgrounds and different countries, and it enhances our society making us better equipped to compete in the global economy.

- # 642: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 641: Feb 3, 2009, **Iris Bork-Goldfield, Connecticut**  Delete
It is vital for our children to know foreign languages in order to be competitive in a global environment. It is therefore in our interest that our children know as many foreign languages and cultures as possible. People in most other countries speak at least one foreign language.
- # 640: Feb 3, 2009, **Barbel Roder, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 639: Feb 3, 2009, **Angela Naibantu, Connecticut**  Delete
English is becoming less and less the most used/spoken language in the world, there are more people now speaking Chinese, Russian (the language of the last Empire), or Spanish than English. I think the trend will increase. Secondly, even for a not particularly gifted mind, learning a new language will activate in one what a group of other disciplines will try in their specific way, i.e. open doors in the mind to rooms one was unaware of. The comparison between words' root, their place in the sentence, shows more than a particular lifestyle and set of priorities. It makes one understand a different culture and as such the ever-present spectre of racism, shovlnism, anti-Semitism, sexism and speciesism has less power over mind. Isolationism, a specific American tendency can be cured too through the learning of other languages. No fortification can stop the fact that we are ONE and learning languages will bring that point home
- # 638: Feb 3, 2009, **Robin Winnat, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 637: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 636: Feb 3, 2009, **Audrey Esmond, Connecticut**  Delete
US children, in order to be respected and remain competitive in this increasingly global world must be exposed to a world language and culture. The formula should be the 3 R's + L: reading, writing, arithmetic, and languages.
- # 635: Feb 3, 2009, **Carolyn Prazenka, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 634: Feb 3, 2009, **Danlela Kinsbourne, Connecticut**  Delete
International Language programs should be just as important in the US as they are in Europe. It is sad that there are no foreign language requirements in place since I think this would benefit children greatly and widen their horizon.
- # 633: Feb 3, 2009, **Pamela Docters, Connecticut**  Delete
A foreign language should be a requirement for high school graduation in order to have a complete education to compete in today's world. It already is a requirement in our town high school (Wilton) and it should be for every high school in CT.
- # 632: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Being able to speak a second language opens the door to understanding another culture and way of thinking. I cannot find any negatives that come along with this.
- # 631: Feb 3, 2009, **Emilie Yonkers, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign language is essential to compete in the global economy with or without higher education. CT students should be prepared to compete in the new global economy. Foreign language study also helps students to learn about other cultures and can reduce prejudices and discrimination.
- # 630: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Americans have become so isolated and have very little perception of different cultures and languages. Learning different languages not only expose an individual to cultures and language it can actually improve your English as well as appreciate the richness of the "melting pot" in this country.
- # 629: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign language study is essential because it allows America to participate in a global community effectively. It forges bonds between people, it makes one seem less haughty when one travels. How can we take pride in American education when we trail the rest of the world miserably in such an important field?
- # 628: Feb 3, 2009, **Sean Bercau, Connecticut**  Delete
Having exposure to a foreign language is vital in today's world economy, and important to the welfare of both the student's and the country's future.
- # 627: Feb 3, 2009, **Karen Tuthill, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 626: Feb 3, 2009, **Chris Stumpe, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning a different language is very important. If you need to know a different language for a job it will help if you learned it in high school.
- # 625: Feb 3, 2009, **Amanda Sherard, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning a foreign language is important because it will help our children in the future. It will help because our children will be able to communicate better with more people in their careers and their everyday lives.

- # 624: Feb 2, 2009, **Antonio Ortiz, Connecticut**  Delete
It makes for a better prepared and well rounded student.
- # 623: Feb 2, 2009, **Jennifer McCann, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 622: Feb 3, 2009, **Denise Cannella, Connecticut**  Delete
Working in both the museum and entertainment fields, I have met many visitors to the United States on vacation from Europe. It was my high school classes in French that allowed me to communicate with these visitors, helping me to both educate and entertain these people!
- # 621: Feb 3, 2009, **Elizabeth Wolfson-Ruiz, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 620: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
In today's world of globalization, speaking a second language is imperative. Furthermore, it exposes students to other cultures and makes them well rounded. Foreign languages are essential in business, banking, medicine, research, politics and in so many other fields. By eliminating the foreign language requirement, you will impoverish our youth and make them far less competitive in today's world.
- # 619: Feb 2, 2009, **Doris Loeb Nabel, Connecticut**  Delete
I am amazed and dismayed that proficiency in a second world language continues to be viewed as unimportant, or a luxury. Learning another language not only facilitates understanding of one's birth language, including improved reading and writing skills; it also broadens cultural understanding. Proficiency in a second language is helpful for travel, important for business, and critical in our global scenario. Today's political circumstances require that everyone, not only political leaders, be aware of and sensitive to the cultural customs of other nations.
- # 618: Feb 2, 2009, **Lakshmi Nair, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign languages are the vehicles by which children experience a culture separate from their own. As their knowledge of a foreign language develops so also does their awareness of the larger world to which they belong.
- # 617: Feb 2, 2009, **Peter Ffleschmann, Connecticut**  Delete
It's time we are catching up with the rest of the world! President Obama and his administration expressed support for World Language learning.
- # 616: Feb 2, 2009, **Julie Asterlades, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 615: Feb 2, 2009, **Hubert Wagner, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 614: Feb 2, 2009, **Catherine Gutleber, New York**  Delete
- # 613: Feb 2, 2009, **Christopher Hogarth, New York**  Delete
America - the country of immigrants, the country I came to as an immigrant. We need to remind everyone that English is not "natural" and show what it is to learn a language, quite aside from our other responsibilities as global citizens.
- # 612: Feb 2, 2009, **Stefanie Mischner, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 611: Feb 2, 2009, **Kenneth Unfried, Connecticut**  Delete
I want Connecticut and the United States to continue to take a leadership role in the world. We need to know about it world and speak more than English.
- # 610: Feb 3, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 609: Feb 2, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 608: Feb 2, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
There is a joke that is told among foreigners and bilingual people here in the US: "What do you call someone who only speaks one language?" The answer: "An American." Sadly, this is pretty much the truth. If we are to negate this stereotype and prepare our students to succeed in a global economy, we need to make it MANDATORY that every child in CT graduate with proficiency in a second language. Additionally, learning a second language opens one's eyes, minds, and hearts to other cultures. As someone with a Masters in Multinational Commerce, I truly believe that one cannot function in an international business situation without understanding the culture of that country. For example, not bowing to a business associate in Japan could cause you to lose a business deal. This type of thing is not necessarily taught in Social Studies classes, but it is an integral part of language study. Therefore, it is imperative that the FL requirement be reinstated in CT schools.
- # 607: Feb 2, 2009, **Hope Brayton, Connecticut**  Delete
As with our national lesson learned about "voluntary financial regulation," we do not improve our expectations & standards (academic, institutional, environmental, business, collective or individual) unless it is "required" of us. Language learning ("foreign language" is not the best term, by the way) is an essential part of any education. It is a terrible disservice to the youth of Connecticut not to require several years of an attempt to learn a language. And languages have as much to offer & more in common with SPORTS than is often assumed -- discipline, repetition, incremental progress, communication with others, positive self image with new skills acquired, etc.
- # 606:

Feb 2, 2009, **Mary K. Bercaw Edwards, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

In an increasingly global world, it is absolutely essential that students learn a foreign language. We do not want a generation of students who know no language but their own and who therefore become more and more isolated and ostracized. Not knowing a foreign language also reduces their chances of success in university Humanities courses, such as English and History.

605: Feb 2, 2009, **Javier Campos, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

Students in this Global world must know another languages beside their native languages. Look Europe, students know two or three languages not only in HS but already in college, Same in Latin America, may be 70% of HS students knows English. All presidents in Latin America know English!!

604: Feb 2, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

In order for students to function in a global society, it is important to learn the languages of others in order to interact effectively. We should not expect people in other countries to learn English, if we don't reciprocate.

603: Feb 2, 2009, **Monica Vivar, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

602: Feb 2, 2009, **Oxana Kopaneva, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

Coming from Europe and being fluent in English, German, and Russian (not to mention some knowledge of Italian, French, Polish and Ukrainian), I am absolutely convinced that every child should be obligated to learn at least one foreign language at school. Learning foreign languages helps to learn children more about other countries, people, mentalities, their customs and traditions. It teaches students to be more tolerant about people from other countries and be LESS ignorant. I am a firm believer that knowing a foreign language makes a person more sophisticated, open-minded and smart. So, please, let's make a foreign language an obligatory requirement at least in our state of CT. Hopefully, in the future, other states will pick it up after us. This will make our country only stronger and better! Best Regards, O. Kopaneva

601: Feb 2, 2009, **Dorothy Materba, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

I have grand children who will travel and will find a foreign language very useful.

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

768
signatures!

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Thank you! You signed at 2:07 PM PST, Jan 21, 2009
[You can do more!](#) [Show me more petitions >](#)

We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

600: Feb 2, 2009, Benjamin Woodard, Connecticut [Delete](#)

599: Feb 2, 2009, Maria Sanhueza, Connecticut [Delete](#)

I believe that we live in a country where english is not the only language spoken and many of our students are at a disadvantage when they are only monolingual. In high school they have a choice of taking a second language and even though they may not master the second language they have the opportunity of being introduced to a different culture which makes them more understanding to what others do and why they do so. A requirement for graduation should be kept in place because when students are young they do not realize how important it is to understand other cultures and how important it is to take the advantage of learning a second language for future job offerings. If we don't push our students to take another language they will miss out on a lot more than just a hello in Spanish. Please don't deny the students the right to learn and to be cultural in the U.S.A.

598: Feb 2, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut [Delete](#)

The US is the only country in the world that does not emphasize the importance of being multilingual. We need to show our students that ALL languages matter and that being able to communicate in more than one language is not only useful but beneficial.

597: Feb 2, 2009, Amy McGurk, Connecticut [Delete](#)

596: Feb 2, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut [Delete](#)

595: Feb 2, 2009, Erin Park, Connecticut [Delete](#)

594: Feb 2, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut [Delete](#)

Young people need to be able to communicate with people of other backgrounds and see the world from different perspectives. Learning another language is the key to both.

593: Feb 1, 2009, Maria Alfonso Almagro, New York [Delete](#)

592: Feb 1, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut [Delete](#)

591: Feb 1, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut [Delete](#)

In today's global world, how can we NOT think about being fluent in more than one language?

- # 590: Feb 1, 2009, **Aline Libassi, Connecticut**  Delete
It an ever shrinking world the knowledge of languages and cultures will represent a key to the future for our students. Let's not keep them in the dark.
- # 589: Feb 1, 2009, **Lori Hopkins, New Hampshire**  Delete
In today's global society, mutual understanding depends on communication. Language study is essential.
- # 588: Feb 1, 2009, **Mia Cavanagh, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign languages should be a part of the graduation requirements for CT and all States. Learning another language forces one to think and learn culture because no word translates "perfectly". If the State removes the requirement, private schools will still maintain their foreign language programs and that will put publicly educated kids in CT even further behind those who are privately educated.
- # 587: Feb 1, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
I urge you to give our students here in Connecticut the necessary skills to compete successfully in our ever growing global world economy. How can we compete if we don't speak their languages? Therefore, I urge you to reinstate the high school graduation requirement.
- # 586: Feb 1, 2009, **Rosemarie DiRienzo, Connecticut**  Delete
It is important to me that students be able to keep in touch not only with the world that is shrinking but to keep alive the heritage of their families. This is what has made American truly a God given free country to so many and the traditions should not be lost under ANY circumstance.
- # 585: Feb 1, 2009, **Valerie Mirshak, North Carolina**  Delete
- # 584: Jan 31, 2009, **Scittian Gastaldi, Canada**  Delete
Learning a foreign language opens the mind and the mentality. Teaches to every student that the world in which he or she is inserted is multicultural, and that each culture is as important as any other.
- # 583: Jan 31, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 582: Jan 31, 2009, **Crecla Swalm, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 581: Jan 30, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
As students in Connecticut enter the world of globalization, what possible reason could we have to end the programs that prepare them? If anything, world language instruction should begin sooner and last longer than many districts now require. Supposing that our children somehow avoid working in a global marketplace, we still must consider the fast-growing sectors of the U.S. population that speak languages other than English. Imagine the benefits -- cultural, economic, social, --- to understanding at least one of those languages. There is also research that tells us that learning a 2nd language benefits our ability to learn other subjects. The proposed plan to eliminate the foreign language high school graduation requirement is a serious move backwards. It's hard to believe, in 2009, that this could actually be up for consideration.
- # 580: Jan 30, 2009, **Andrew Masters, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 579: Jan 30, 2009, **Laura Finneran, Connecticut**  Delete
The knowledge of a world language will become increasingly important in our global economy. Eliminating the foreign language high school graduation requirement will hurt our children's future.
- # 578: Jan 30, 2009, **Robert Cloutier, Connecticut**  Delete
The value of learning a foreign language has forever been greatly underappreciated by the education establishment and is something which many of us in the classroom have been trying to have recognized for many many years. In this age where 'diversity' is one of the most common buzzwords in education, in a time when 'globalization' is accepted as the way things are and will be done in business, arts, trade and other segments of the economy, then it seems quite shortsighted not to make foreign language learning a requirement in our schools.
- # 577: Jan 30, 2009, **Maura Fruln, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 576: Jan 30, 2009, **Avak Norbert Kirchner, Germany**  Delete
- # 575: Jan 30, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 574: Jan 30, 2009, **J Wildman, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 573: Jan 30, 2009, **Anonymous, Colorado**  Delete
- # 572: Jan 29, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete

- # 571: Jan 29, 2009, **Taylor Pacekonis, Connecticut**  Delete
I am in high school and I feel learning a foreign language is not only an opportunity to meet new people and expand work across the world but also an opportunity to expand individual knowledge. If I hadn't learned Spanish I would've never gotten to go to Spain through a foreign exchange trip this past summer. It convinced me that I want to pursue a job as a spanish teacher or something related to the language. But how can I be a spanish teacher if there are no student in Connecticut to teach? There would no longer be any foreign exchange programs. Not only that but there are many job situations when a foreign language comes in handy such as hospitals, offices, etc. If there were a person who spoke only english and a person who spoke spanish who applied for a job and the job was in a spanish speaking area who would be chosen for the job position? Most likely the person who spoke spanish. For me my favorite class is my Spanish class and if that is removed, many kids will no longer take spanish. Student's opportunities will be limited. And as Spanish is quickly becoming a commonly spoken language and there are also many people who speak French and other languages I feel the need for foreign language classes to stay in the curriculum. The United States is suppose to be a country of freedom and rights, but how are people suppose to enjoy what America has to offer if few people can understand them? With the release of the Foreign Language requirement many jobs will be lost. I also found that other countries of the world are required to take english so why should we be on the lacking side and not have a required language class in schools (other than English)?
- # 570: Jan 29, 2009, **Paufa Pacekonis, Connecticut**  Delete
the United States is behind so many other countries who are required to talk another language early in their education and with all the different languages spoken in the U.S. it will enhance job opportunities for American born applicants
- # 569: Jan 29, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
I think that studying a foreign language at an early age is one of the best ways to become aware of the differences in world cultures, and to have an appreciation for people outside of the US. I also think it's important for American travelers to attempt to speak the language of the county they're visiting; it says a lot [negative] about a traveler who does not, and instead requires the "natives" to speak English.
- # 568: Jan 29, 2009, **Ralph Jensen Jr, Connecticut**  Delete
The need for the future adults in the United States are going to need to know a foreign language to compete in the world.
- # 567: Jan 29, 2009, **Holly R. Cashman, New Hampshire**  Delete
More than ever, intercultural competence and proficiency in languages other than English is a requirement not only to be a successful candidate in today's job market and global economy, but also to be an educated person, an educated citizen.
- # 566: Jan 29, 2009, **Jeannette Torres, Connecticut**  Delete
To be able to communicate in a second language is a great resource for any student or individual, and it increase the possibility of being more successful in a future career.
- # 565: Jan 29, 2009, **Anonymous, New Hampshire**  Delete
- # 564: Jan 29, 2009, **Silvio Ferraro, Connecticut**  Delete
Once again Foreign Languages become education's step child, underappreciated and less respected. This cyclical malady is a knee-jerk reaction usually to the financial situation at present. It never considers the unique and "game-changing" winning quality that a FL can give to a candidate for any position in any company. Institution, etc. Our national heritage and foundation came from foreign lands... In this sense dropping the FL requirement seems almost unpatriotic and ironically un-American.
- # 563: Jan 29, 2009, **Marie Hayes, Connecticut**  Delete
If Connecticut high school graduates are to be competitive in the global economy, they must be prepared to communicate in at least one other language besides English. If Connecticut is to maintain its national standing in secondary education, you must reinstate the foreign language high school graduation requirement.
- # 562: Jan 29, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
It is beyond belief that in 2009 we do not value the acquisition of another language (and its culture)! How terribly ethnocentric and xenophobic!
- # 561: Jan 29, 2009, **Giuliano Greco, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 560: Jan 29, 2009, **Peter Everett, Connecticut**  Delete
I guess all the talk about a "global society" was just that. The learning of a second or third language enriches ones' communicative abilities (including a better understanding of ones own language), helps to broaden cultural knowledge and understanding, fosters an appreciation of foreign literature, and develops and enhances ones understanding of geography. NOT being exposed to a foreign language can foster ignorance of other cultures and diminish ones communicative abilities.
- # 559: Jan 29, 2009, **Anonymous, Florida**  Delete
High School Foreign Language programs help to broaden provincial thinking, open up other worlds and cultures, give students a chance to listen, speak, read and write in a language other than English, teach students their own language structure, enrich students' vocabularies, and sharpen study skills.
- # 558: Jan 29, 2009, **Roberta Fletcher, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 557: Jan 29, 2009, **Joseph Wolenski, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 556: Jan 29, 2009, **Frances Calzetta, Connecticut**  Delete
The Humanities need far more attention than they are receiving. Another language enables us to know how another group of people think and enables us to communicate better. also it expands our brain power. Americans need to stop being "POOR JOHNNY ONE NOTE". It is unthinkable that other languages are removed. Personally I found four years of LATIN at the HIGH School level to have a profound influence on my knowledge, my thought process and my life. It leads to a breadth

and depth of understanding. A sidebar it is enjoyable to learn another language or two. This is pure nonsense on the part of ignorant politician educators to even consider doing away with the language requirement. Time to have intelligence and morality take over. In the complex international world that America is leader in it is unthinkable that language learning should not be mandated.

555: Jan 29, 2009, Richard Iannazzi, Connecticut Delete
The loss of the language requirement will keep many students from learning the language of their parents/grandparents' birth country and, therefore, lose the ethnic/cultural heritage that made this country what it is today.

554: Jan 29, 2009, Martine Firlotte, Connecticut Delete
I am a High School French Teacher

553: Jan 29, 2009, Michael Kashgarian, Connecticut Delete

552: Jan 29, 2009, Vita Marcone, Connecticut Delete

551: Jan 29, 2009, Chelsey Zahornacky, Connecticut Delete
It opens the students' eyes to a world beyond their own.

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

768

signaturest

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 550: Jan 20, 2009, **Shirley Jensen, Connecticut** Delete
Are these educated people advocating taking away this requirement??? Obviously not!!!
- # 549: Jan 20, 2009, **Ann Bucklin, Connecticut** Delete
Our students will be greatly disadvantaged by missing formal coursework in foreign languages at the high school level. The apparent trade-off between coursework in science versus languages is particularly puzzling. As an academic researcher, I work with colleagues in countries throughout the world, and they all expect and appreciate my small attempts to communicate in their language. For these, I draw on my high school language course training and I would be very sorry not to have this template for continued learning.
- # 548: Jan 20, 2009, **Michael Williston, Connecticut** Delete
It's not just about a foreign language. It's also about cultural awareness and growing the young brain in different ways, even in ways whose usefulness may not be immediately apparent to students.
- # 547: Jan 20, 2009, **Brian Torff, Connecticut** Delete
Stop dumbing down America- Language is an essential key to and education and an enriched life- look at the Europeans,
- # 546: Jan 20, 2009, **Ira Sakolsky, Connecticut** Delete
- # 545: Jan 20, 2009, **Rosanna Tucci, Florida** Delete
Student are citizens of the world not just of the United States.
- # 544: Jan 20, 2009, **Antonio Senes, Connecticut** Delete
It's a shame that in today's world we are removing the Foreign Language in High School. Globalization is the future of our economy and our world.
- # 543: Jan 20, 2009, **Marie V. Roberto, Connecticut** Delete
The time to learn a language and culture is early in one's education. In our multicultural society it behooves our CT graduates to be best prepared to work within that frame. It is less than desirable to place the burden to learn a second language on employers. Learning a language also helps understand a culture - especially important in health care today.
- # 542: Jan 20, 2009, **Italo Siervo, Florida** Delete

A foreign language gives the student an additional asset for his/her future, an additional cultural experience that will always be remembered.

- # 541: Jan 28, 2009, **Adelinda Pimentel, Connecticut**
- # 540: Jan 28, 2009, **Maria V. Febles, Connecticut**
Learning a Foreign Language helps you to understand the world around you not only in a local level, but also worldwide. The more we learn about other cultures, the more we can understand and accept people as they are and who they are. This country is constantly dealing with Latin America, is surrounded mostly by Latin America, and a big part of it was owned by the Mexicans. Perhaps, if we begin to care about people of other backgrounds and cultures, the world would be a better place to live.
- # 539: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**
With the high demand of knowing multiple languages in this country it is important that all students have the opportunity to study the language of their choice. When students reach the university level they will be unable to grasp the dynamics of the language. It is a known fact that all students miss out on the opportunity to master the ability to speak properly in any language if they do not have exposure to it prior to their adolescence.
- # 538: Jan 28, 2009, **Liesl Dalpe, Connecticut**
- # 537: Jan 28, 2009, **Jessica Haxhi, Connecticut**
Everything else that we value is introduced beginning in kindergarten and continued through high school. In the 21st Century, how can we send the message that we value math, science, English, physical education, and many other requirements, and not recognize the importance of knowing a second language? Most future careers will require some global networking or local interaction with non-English speakers. Speaking a second (or third or fourth) language strengthens students' ability to see other perspectives, reflect on their own language and culture, and their ability to adapt to any foreign situation. Foreign language needs to join the other graduation requirements as a component of a high school experience that truly prepares students to be successful in their careers and as world citizens.
- # 536: Jan 28, 2009, **Gregory Pearce, Connecticut**
- # 535: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**
- # 534: Jan 28, 2009, **Daniel Zurlo, Connecticut**
DO people forget what country they live in? you cant go 2 feet with out meeting someone who can speak a second language. with out FL in our schools we might as well be any other country but this one...
- # 533: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**
- # 532: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**
Learning and ability to speak another language opens a world of opportunities for the student, the state and the country.
- # 531: Jan 28, 2009, **Anna Ferrucci, Connecticut**
I am extremely shocked and saddened by the thought of the decision to take away high schools' foreign language requirements. Learning a foreign language invites students to gain an appreciation and an understanding of other cultures, traditions, and a new and different way to communicate with others. This is not only beneficial in a personal sense, but in a professional sense as well - being fluent in multiple languages could be the deciding vote on whether or not a potential employee lands his or her dream job. Let's face it: being multi-lingual in this society is marketable, appealing, and very much sought-after. How are today's youth going to possibly be placed in this category if foreign language classes are in jeopardy of being taken away? As a bi-lingual English and Italian speaker, and a dedicated supporter of both cultures and languages, I support 100% continuing to provide students with the opportunity to discover new and exciting languages in school.
- # 530: Jan 28, 2009, **Lan Lin, Connecticut**
- # 529: Jan 28, 2009, **Julia Lindquist, Connecticut**
Foreign Language knowledge educates the individual both historically and contemporarily. It leads to understanding other peoples and their cultures as well as their political issues. We need a new generation who can communicate with the rest of the world. Require Foreign Language classes in high schools; for best results, begin in first grade.
- # 528: Jan 28, 2009, **Catherine Nadkarni, Connecticut**
In a global world where communication is the essence, it seems absurd and short sighted to consider eliminating foreign languages from the high school curriculum. In the light of recent world events, the exposure to many more foreign languages is the direction to take instead, in order to bridge our differences, learn tolerance, respect and understanding of other cultures, and ultimately create a world in which we can all live in peace. Isolation is not the key.
- # 527: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**
- # 526: Jan 28, 2009, **Susan Ulbrich, Connecticut**
I studied Spanish for six years in middle school and high school. Upon entering college, I fell in love with Italian. I have recently graduated with my masters in Italian in Florence, Italy and spent two years in Rome translating for a non-profit cancer organization and teaching English to Italians. Language is so important for our young Americans!
- # 525: Jan 28, 2009, **Kelly Vass, Connecticut**

- # 524: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
For children to grow up in a world where multicultural understanding is important it is vital that they have exposure to foreign languages.
- # 523: Jan 28, 2009, **Marilyn Nelson, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 522: Jan 28, 2009, **William Snyder, Connecticut**  Delete
Alongside mathematics and science, foreign language skills are essential to success - whether at a university or in the workforce.
- # 521: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 520: Jan 28, 2009, **Marie-Pierre Norris, Connecticut**  Delete
In a day and age of globalization, I think that knowing another foreign language is a plus professionally. It can only increase the student's tolerance for other cultures.
- # 519: Jan 28, 2009, **Elisabeth Spencer, Florida**  Delete
To be in command of a foreign language increases reasoning powers, helps to understand math and science concepts and enables the individual to interact more successfully with peoples of other cultures. The citizens of the United States need to increase their knowledge of the cultures and histories of other countries in order to become citizens of the world instead of country hicks. Each one of us needs to be a diplomatic representative of this great land. Please remain enlightened and don't abandon the study of languages.
- # 518: Jan 28, 2009, **Krista Golia, Connecticut**  Delete
The United States is a nation of all cultures and all languages...eliminating language programs does not only the students a disservice but our communities and nation as a whole.
- # 517: Jan 28, 2009, **Marla Izzo, Connecticut**  Delete
My parents are both first generation Italians and I looked forward to taking Italian in high school when I was younger since the language was not talked much in the home and though I understood the language, I wanted to be able to speak it as well. It was the part of high school that was most memorable to me and I enjoyed the class very much (partly because of the fact I had a really good teacher). The Italian language is a big part of me and now that I am older and in college I still value my culture and am part of the Italian Youth Organization. I really would like other students to get the chance I had at learning a foreign language. I really feel it is as important, if not more important than the other core classes that are taken to prepare for life or college. It's important that one is able to communicate with others and has a broader view of the world and learning a foreign language does this.
- # 516: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 515: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
The study of a foreign language expands a student's knowledge and appreciation of other cultures. Eliminating this exposure limits a student's appreciation and acceptance of other cultures.
- # 514: Jan 28, 2009, **Antonietta Di Pietro, Florida**  Delete
- # 512: Jan 28, 2009, **Hannah Wasserman, New York**  Delete
- # 511: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 510: Jan 28, 2009, **Caitlin Dalpe, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 509: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
I find it amazing that people do not realize how important languages are in this period of time. We have more and more foreigners entering this country who do not speak English, who need translators to assist them. Or better yet the foreigners who know 2 or 3 languages and have a lot more opportunity to advance in diverse careers than our own citizens. I will ALWAYS be thankful to have learned another language as a child. I have been able to help others in their time of need.
- # 508: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
I took a foreign language in CT's schools starting in 7th grade. It was always my favorite part of my curriculum and I can't imagine where I would be without it. It opened so many doors for me including a foreign language major in college and an opportunity to live and study abroad. Please reconsider your decision.
- # 507: Jan 28, 2009, **Nancy Katsaros, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign language opens one's mind to different ways of thinking. We need to become more sensitive to other cultures in this global community.
- # 506: Jan 28, 2009, **Teresa Blanco, Spain**  Delete
For the past 6 years I have been involved with a 3 week exchange program with my sister school in Enfield, CT. The impact that this exchange has had on both the Spanish students as well as American students and their families has been immeasurable. Studying a foreign language in my country is considered essential from a very early age. In this interdependent world it is important for our students world wide to speak at least two or three languages if they want to be open and successful citizens everywhere they go.

Feb 23, 2009, **Signe Damdar, Connecticut** 

As high school teachers and mentors, I cannot think of a better way to show our students that "the world does not revolve around them." When students learn foreign languages, they begin to understand their role in the world and become eager to learn more about what "the world" is really about.

504: Jan 28, 2009, **Catherine Holdridge, Connecticut** 

I feel strongly that two years of a foreign language should remain a requirement for high school students. We are a global society! We need to be able to communicate with our community members. Please consider this! Thank you in advance.

503: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 

502: Jan 28, 2009, **Matthew Lupoli, Connecticut** 

Taking a foreign language not only teaches you how to just speak the language, it also teaches you about another culture. While not everyone is going to grow up to be a foreign ambassador, I feel that it is important to know about cultures outside our own. The philosopher Aristotle felt it was important that people be schooled in all subjects and sciences, and taking a foreign language should not be excluded.

501: Jan 28, 2009, **Angeles De Castro, Connecticut** 

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

768 signatures!

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 500: Jan 28, 2009, **Grant C Roti, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
I teach English at Housatonic Community College, and one of the great benefits of a foreign language is that the students learn English grammar, which most of our students have not learned well, if at all. And just taking English courses does not give one a good understanding of English grammar; the students need to compare it to something else.
- # 499: Jan 28, 2009, **Ginevra Adamoli, Florida** [Delete](#)
Learning about other cultures, traditions, and languages is essential in today's society. (1) As the Internet and new digital media such as Myspace, Facebook, and YouTube have allowed the world to connect and share information, it is almost inevitable that we have to acknowledge cultural differences and learn about them so that we as a nation could culturally and economically benefit from it. Not exposing our children to foreign languages will push them to be outcast of the world and they will not be able to compete with those (foreigners) who have been studying multiple languages and have been analyzing other cultures like ours. (2) Learning other languages and their culture decrease wars in the world. When 9/11 happened, the FBI did not have efficient translators who could speak, understand, and communicate with Afghanistan or Iraq. Communication is key to an economic stability and peace.
- # 498: Jan 28, 2009, **Alexander Casella, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
I took foreign language courses in high school that have helped me become a multi-lingual business man today, and I would not want to take that away from my children and the future generations. Language is important and we should not stop it in our schools.
- # 497: Jan 28, 2009, **Greta Waag, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
As a high school student, I believe being involved in foreign languages is very important. It allows us to see different aspects of cultures and traditions other than our own. It also allows for some sort of communication for possible future travels.
- # 496: Jan 28, 2009, **Vincenzo G Zurlo, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
I being bilingual English/Italian, have an advantage to service two nationalities. Employed in the public consumer industry, able to converse in another language increases resource opportunity to achieve any goal! Vincenzo
- # 495: Jan 28, 2009, **Susan Bennitt, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Gaining proficiency in a foreign language broadens students' understanding of the world and gives them needed communication tools to succeed in the ever more global world.

- # 494: Jan 28, 2009, **Angeles Dam, Connecticut**  Delete
I believe that learning a Foreign Language is a crucial component of a good High School Education. We live in an increasingly smaller world and to learn a Foreign Language opens student's horizons and make them more aware of the world. In order to prepare good and productive citizens who can contribute in a positive manner not only to the economy but the bridging of cultural and geographic barriers.
- # 493: Jan 28, 2009, **Martha Venter, Connecticut**  Delete
In an increasingly global world, it is imperative that our citizens look beyond their borders to the rest of the world. Knowing another language gives them a different perspective on world issues, insights into other cultures- essential to living a well-informed life.
- # 492: Jan 28, 2009, **Marie Picciotto Proverb, Connecticut**  Delete
Now, as never before, we need to develop our skills in a multicultural, global society. Learning another language builds bridges as an effective way to communicate and connect with other cultures. My high-school teaching career began over forty years ago. In that career I have taught French, Italian and Spanish. I am still going strong and still believe that what we do is an integral part of our students' education!
- # 491: Jan 28, 2009, **Susan Wineland, Connecticut**  Delete
See this excellent article: <http://www.utm.edu/departments/french/flsat.html>
- # 490: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Students in the USA need more opportunities to learn about the world beyond their borders, rather than fewer.
- # 489: Jan 28, 2009, **Rocco Calabrese, Connecticut**  Delete
Please share why a high school foreign language requirement is important to you!
- # 488: Jan 28, 2009, **Larry Alan Smith, Connecticut**  Delete
We need to give our students a sense of the world beyond the borders of CT and the United States. Foreign language study is critically important. LAS
- # 487: Jan 28, 2009, **Delda Terardi, Connecticut**  Delete
As a former Board of Education member in an urban school district, I studied the results of a Dual Language program that began in Kindergarten and ended in Advanced Placement Courses at the High School. The children in the program got the highest scores on a diverse battery of tests. Learning a second language at an early age - at any age - stretches the brain in new directions. In a global economy, where most other developed countries have a dual language requirement, the USA will be moving backwards to eliminate language courses. I support a requirement for dual language skills as a criteria for High School Graduation.
- # 486: Jan 28, 2009, **Richard DiPalma Jr., Connecticut**  Delete
The opportunity to study a foreign language since I began studying it in the very same school in which I now teach has changed my life dramatically. It has helped me to "reconnect" with my Italian roots (No, my parents do not speak Italian) and to understand the culture and history of my family. I have learned a great deal about the reasons that my great-grandparents chose to settle their families in the United States, and I have also learned of the modern country in Europe today. Finally, I have found relatives who I did not know existed, and have made many friendships since I have embraced a second language. I have come to understand how people of other countries live, and consider myself a more well rounded person because of it. Discontinuing foreign language learning (especially in a world of instant communication with a global market) would be just as detrimental to our school system if we were to also eliminate science, math, and history.
- # 485: Jan 28, 2009, **Julia Chiappetta, Connecticut**  Delete
Languages are essential in the world we live today. Not only do they teach word origins which help to understand the English language they improve and hone your skills to memory and understanding the written word. We, most of us come from another country or origin and we need to be global in our teaching.
- # 484: Jan 28, 2009, **Ethan Warner, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 483: Jan 28, 2009, **Kathryn Turcsany, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 482: Jan 28, 2009, **Ana Acevedo, Connecticut**  Delete
I think that Foreign Language should be a requirement for all High School Graduates in Connecticut because of the importance of diversity in our state and the future of our children.
- # 481: Jan 28, 2009, **June-Ann Greeley, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 480: Jan 28, 2009, **Pilar Munday, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 479: Jan 28, 2009, **Tek-wah King, Connecticut**  Delete
Not starting a FL until college is a waste of the learner's biologically-based, language-specific enjoyment that would be impossible to reverse.
- # 478: Jan 28, 2009, **Carolyn Baker, Connecticut**  Delete
We now live in a global society. Current communication technology and transportation access make contact with citizens of other nations commonplace. For Americans to compete in the global marketplace, multi-lingual skills are essential and in many cases expected. An education that does not prepare students to communicate in a global way is incomplete and limits the horizons of students. Language study also includes cultural study which educates one to be more tolerant and respectful of differences, a necessary quality in today's world.

- Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, New York** [Delete](#)
I am a teacher of Spanish and French, so I obviously have a vested interest in FL programs. However, and much more importantly, I was once an eighth grader about to enter high school. I was capable enough, but pretty lazy. I remember hearing at orientation that we had to take 2 years of a foreign language. I remember thinking, "Well, good, I can drop it after 2 years!" I had no interest. I started Spanish my freshman year of high school. At the start, I didn't do so well. I realized that I had to shape up, so I started to study. Before I knew it, I was having fun speaking and practicing with friends and native speakers. By the end of my sophomore year, I was bilingual. Maybe I had a bit of a gift for languages, or maybe the gift was the amazing teachers who taught me. I do know that the opportunity to study it is something that I would never have sought out on my own. Thank God I was mandated to take Spanish: I discovered a gift and a lifelong (I hope!) career. How many students will benefit from taking another language? For how many is that their one untapped gift, or the one thing that will bring them happiness and a job one day? Please, let's provide our young people with every possible opportunity and resource to discover their gifts and use them in the future. That is what education should be all about.
- # 476: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, New York** [Delete](#)
These students are the key to our future! Graduation offers more opportunities for them to reach their potential! It is our responsibility to protect their right to graduate!
- # 475: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 474: Jan 28, 2009, **Jessica Gillespie, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
As an English language teacher, I know my students have a much better grasp of the English language when they study another language. Furthermore, in an increasingly shrinking world, they need to be able to communicate with a broad spectrum of individuals.
- # 473: Jan 28, 2009, **Susan Amalangelo, Massachusetts** [Delete](#)
In today's society, knowledge of a second language and culture is crucial, not to mention that language learning helps young minds to develop in a variety of ways.
- # 472: Jan 28, 2009, **Gerald Dalpe, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 471: Jan 28, 2009, **Jacqueline De La Chapelle Skubly, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
You acquire a better knowledge of English. It broadens your cultural and intellectual horizons. You understand and accept people who are different. It will enable you to compare and contrast cultural concepts. Another practical skill to improve your cognitive and practical thinking abilities.
- # 470: Jan 28, 2009, **Wesley Reed, Colorado** [Delete](#)
I have been in language training for the Department of Defense for nearly 30 years. Being able to speak the language where you are is not only a wonderful thing for travel, but it can also save lives.
- # 469: Jan 28, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 467: Jan 28, 2009, **Alexander Michelotti, Michigan** [Delete](#)
Knowledge of a second language improves one's knowledge of English, opens doors to more work and study opportunities, and augments intelligence overall.
- # 466: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Studying Spanish has changed my life! I took it in school because it was a requirement, and had no idea it would have such a HUGE impact on my life! It was the greatest! In 8th grade we had half a year of Spanish and half a year of French, from which we chose which language to pursue further in high school. I fell in love with Spanish and continued to study it throughout all four years of high school. I practiced speaking Spanish with all of my Spanish-speaking friends outside of the classroom and found this language knowledge very useful as I live in a town with a large Spanish-speaking population. Now, I am going into medicine, and as a doctor I will be working with many Spanish-speaking patients, so this language competency will continue to help others. Throughout the four years of undergraduate college, I volunteered at a medical clinic providing free health care to migrant farmers. Many of these patients spoke only Spanish, so I facilitated their care by serving as a translator and treating them in Spanish! Then I also studied abroad for a summer in the Dominican Republic doing community service, using my Spanish to interact with the people I was working with. I find myself thinking in Spanish sometimes and my foreign language ability makes it easier for me to learn additional languages and study vocabulary. The high school foreign language requirement has had such a positive effect on my life. I really hope it is reinstated!
- # 465: Jan 27, 2009, **Teresa Mac Tavish, Canada** [Delete](#)
- # 464: Jan 27, 2009, **Amy Jensen, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 463: Jan 27, 2009, **David Benson, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
My study of French and Latin not only introduced me to new cultures and views of the world but was essentially in improving my writing of English by making me understand how language works. It is essential.
- # 462: Jan 27, 2009, **Julie Anderson, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 461: Jan 27, 2009, **Donna Robbins, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
How can we raise our children to be participants in the world economy, politics and/or negotiations of any kind if they cannot perceive another way...another culture? It starts with language! After 2 years of a mandatory language program...the flame is lit, the yearning for knowledge of other cultures is awakened! We MUST show our youth that there is more to their lives than what they see at home. We must show them that the world is a big place filled with diversity. That is the only way the future has promise. As for me and mine... we believe in a united world. God Bless America
- # 460: Jan 27, 2009, **Leslie Poole Pettit, New York** [Delete](#)

I studied Italian in high school subsequently received the Generoso Pope Italian scholarship to Fordham University. As a result of my Italian high school studies, my life was changed. I majored in Italian and have never stopped continuing my Italian language learning and promoting of the language. PLEASE reinstate this hs foreign language requirement so every student will be exposed and enlightened to the wonderful world of languages and literature!

- # 459: Jan 27, 2009, **Douglas Hamilton, Connecticut** Delete
The appreciation of a foreign language is also tied to the appreciation of other cultures and other ways of approaching life and solving problems. This needs to be a part of every high school curriculum.
- # 458: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** Delete
- # 457: Jan 27, 2009, **Paul Griswold, Connecticut** Delete
- # 456: Jan 27, 2009, **Maggie Stevens, Connecticut** Delete
I am a teacher in both bilingual (English and Spanish) and mainstream classrooms. Learning and knowing a second language has enriched my life. I am proud to say I learned this Spanish beginning in high school. Learning a second language enriches your ability to master your first language, while learning a second.
- # 455: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** Delete
- # 454: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Florida** Delete
I vote yes!
- # 453: Jan 27, 2009, **Magda Pearson, Florida** Delete
Knowing a language is knowing a culture.
- # 452: Jan 27, 2009, **Craig Crews, Connecticut** Delete
- # 451: Jan 27, 2009, **Daniel Lelsawitz, Connecticut** Delete
The study of a foreign language in High School is an incredibly important part of students' education. Language study increases students' ability to communicate with others, and it expands their cultural and intellectual horizons. The effective elimination of foreign language study from CT High Schools will result in the impoverishment of the education we offer to our children. Please consider re-instituting the 2.0 credit requirement. Thank you.

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BOOKMARK

Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 450: Jan 27, 2009, **Irene Zanini-Cordi, Florida** Delete
A foreign language is a window into a new world and culture: students should be exposed to different cultures as soon as possible.
- # 449: Jan 27, 2009, **Diana Fiske, Connecticut** Delete
- # 448: Jan 27, 2009, **Cristina Gragnani, Illinois** Delete
- # 447: Jan 27, 2009, **Tammie Spaulding, Connecticut** Delete
We are living in an international world, a time in which communication across cultural boundaries is expected. Why would we put our children at such a disadvantage?
- # 446: Jan 27, 2009, **Srimathy Raghavan, Connecticut** Delete
Although a U.S. Citizen now, I come from India originally. I take my children to India to see the rest of their family. When we fly into Europe, basically go past New York, it is borne in on us how important it is to know a foreign language. In today's world, it is all about globalization of all businesses. The only way to give a leg up for our kids is by making them learn a foreign language as part of their curriculum in school. Please reinstate FL High School Graduation requirement.
- # 445: Jan 27, 2009, **L. Smith, Connecticut** Delete
- # 444: Jan 27, 2009, **Ross Buck, Connecticut** Delete
The high school FL requirement is vital for citizens of a global economy and it is more efficient and less costly for students to pass this requirement in high school than to take college courses.
- # 443: Jan 27, 2009, **Pietro Floris, Florida** Delete
Give our kids the world
- # 442: Jan 27, 2009, **Elizabeth Johnson, Connecticut** Delete
American students need awareness and knowledge of other cultures. Indeed, we are a nation of "different cultures." Aside from the gaining of a perspective, students may ultimately gain employment from foreign language and culture study. Our new president is pushing diplomacy and talks with foreign leaders. For Connecticut's students to be competitive in their adult lives, they must have exposure to foreign languages within our public education system.
- # 441:

- Jan 27, 2009, **Melissa Tafoya, Connecticut** 
- # 440: Jan 27, 2009, **Carl Coelho, Connecticut** 
Encouraging children to study a foreign language and different cultures broadens their perspective.
- # 439: Jan 27, 2009, **Crawford Elder, Connecticut** 
This country is insular enough as it is. Best way to get kids to realize that non-US people are in some ways different from us--and that that's OK!--is to have kids learn a foreign language.
- # 438: Jan 27, 2009, **Lauren McCombs, Connecticut** 
Foreign Language study is an opportunity for students to learn not only a language but a bit of the culture they are studying. In this global economy and ever changing world it is important for us to be able to understand each other in more ways than one.
- # 437: Jan 27, 2009, **Toni Ryan, Connecticut** 
There is simply no substitute for encountering culture, encountering our selves in time and place, for expanding minds and comprehending the nature of language and communication than through the experience of learning a foreign language. In the global arena, such experience is crucial, and at the very least a minimum of two years' exposure to any language (classical or modern) will enhance one's "global literacy." Connecticut has been at the cutting edge in education before; let us not relinquish our space there by diminishing the importance of foreign language education in relegating it to the margins of educational experience.
- # 436: Jan 27, 2009, **Clint Kennedy, Connecticut** 
- # 435: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, New York** 
In today's globalised environment everyone is associated with multilingual personalities, one way or the other, and are expected to communicate efficiently, effectively and mutually; Language being the powerful tool for this communication, it is one absolute requirement for everyone to know as many languages as possible not only--to express one's views but also to understand others clearly; to know others' culture and make them know theirs; and to stay connected in all areas effectively; That will be a perfect stage of comfortness with clarity. This is becoming imperative as today's and future generation has a need to interact not internally but internationally. Hence learning more foreign languages is very good and required.
- # 434: Jan 27, 2009, **Hannah Mignan, Connecticut** 
- # 433: Jan 27, 2009, **Gina Carucci, Connecticut** 
- # 432: Jan 27, 2009, **William Stebbins, Connecticut** 
We live in a global community and high school needs to prepare students to exist within it.
- # 431: Jan 27, 2009, **Emily Griffin, Connecticut** 
- # 430: Jan 27, 2009, **Kristin Moran, Connecticut** 
- # 429: Jan 27, 2009, **Caitlin Harkins, Connecticut** 
- # 428: Jan 27, 2009, **Lawrence Squeri, Pennsylvania** 
In a multicultural age, the study of a language is an excellent introduction to a foreign culture. Besides, language study requires work and concentration. Language is not a "gut" course.
- # 427: Jan 27, 2009, **Thalia Pandiri, Massachusetts** 
- # 426: Jan 27, 2009, **Lauren Forker, Connecticut** 
- # 425: Jan 27, 2009, **Todd Cunha, Connecticut** 
Please share why a high school foreign language requirement is important to you!
- # 424: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
- # 423: Jan 27, 2009, **Jerelyn Johnson, Connecticut** 
- # 422: Jan 27, 2009, **Ed Goldberg, Connecticut** 
It would be a shame to continue without the foreign lang requirement
- # 421: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Pennsylvania** 
Without knowledge of foreign languages, American students will receive an even more insular education than the one they already gain. They will not be able to face

the challenges of a globalized world and provide US corporations with the requirements of an increasingly global workforce. It's already happening.

- # 420: Jan 27, 2009, **Dina Cassarino, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 419: Jan 27, 2009, **Margaret R Higonet, Connecticut**  Delete
It is important that American children take at least two years foreign languages in high school in a global era, in order to prepare them for greater success in a competitive international economy, in order to acquire the skills necessary to protecting national security, and in order to gain access to the international legacy of the great world cultures. In World War II, American soldiers were protected by the numbers of soldiers who spoke German, Italian, French, Russian and Asian languages, as well as those who studied intensively critical languages such as Japanese. In the business world, the ability to market, negotiate, and compete requires an understanding of the target cultures as well as of international competitors. And it has been suggested that the acquisition of a second language not only enhances mental agility along alternative paths of analysis but has long-lasting value, as can be seen in survivors of strokes who retain a second language (helping them rebuild their verbal skills). An understanding of other cultures and their languages is the basis on which civilization itself is built. Moreover, the value of language instruction is enhanced further by its introduction in early childhood, when language acquisition is both simpler and more permanent. I strongly urge the implementation of both early childhood languages and a minimum of two years in high school.
- # 418: Jan 27, 2009, **Joseph Kavumpurath, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 417: Jan 27, 2009, **MIATELLO DANIELA, New York**  Delete
Analyzing skills, creativity, problem solving, abstract concepts improve when students study a foreign language...many countries around the world understand the importance of studying foreign language and that gives them advantages such as overseas business and joint ventures. Will our students be ready for the future without acquisition of foreign languages?
- # 416: Jan 27, 2009, **Kentwood Wells, Connecticut**  Delete
I have two daughters, one in Middle School and one in high school. The older one studied Latin in Middle School and switched to Spanish in High School, while the other is in French and will take Spanish in High School. Both grew up fluent in Spanish because their mother is from Colombia, but taking the courses are essential for learning grammar, writing skills, etc. Both of them will have two full years of language study in Middle School and four years in High School, so a two-year graduation requirement seems like a very low goal and certainly the State should not drop below that.
- # 415: Jan 27, 2009, **Lauren Griswold, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 414: Jan 27, 2009, **Erica Berg, Connecticut**  Delete
I find it absurd that some people don't recognize the importance of teaching languages and culture in our public school systems. As our students are from all different ethnicities and cultures, it is vital that we recognize and appreciate these. Teaching foreign language is more than the language. It is the culture. Our country is far behind others in its systems. Most students of other countries graduate schools knowing three languages. They are taught these languages from the beginning. We need to prepare our students for the future.
- # 413: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 412: Jan 27, 2009, **Kelli Darrin, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign Language is a very important subject for all students to have. Being fluent in multiple languages will open numerous job opportunities and put bilingual applicants ahead of their competition.
- # 411: Jan 27, 2009, **Krista Burnham, Connecticut**  Delete
As America becomes more and more of a melting pot of cultures, an understanding of one another's languages is vital to communication, business, fostering relationships, and peace. We need to allow children to successfully communicate in their own worlds and in others'.
- # 410: Jan 27, 2009, **Lucinda Weiss, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning a foreign language is essential to navigating the 21st century world. Removing the high school foreign language requirement in Connecticut only ensures that our students would be unprepared for professional employment or for engaging with the rest of the world. Even those whose work seems far removed from the foreign language fields - scientists, engineers, military personnel, and businesspeople - need exposure to other cultures and languages to be successful.
- # 409: Jan 27, 2009, **Coleen Spurlock, Connecticut**  Delete
Our children, the future leaders of our country need a complete and proper education to be competitive in this global economy. Please reinstate the foreign language high school graduation requirement in CT!
- # 408: Jan 27, 2009, **Lisa Mishriky, Connecticut**  Delete
It had helped me immensely!
- # 407: Jan 27, 2009, **Joseph Hall, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 406: Jan 27, 2009, **Monica Van Beusekom, Connecticut**  Delete
The study of a foreign language not only provides us with an understanding of another culture but offers us new perspectives on our own culture. By opening our eyes to the diversity of the world, we are able to imagine new solutions to both local and global problems.
- # 405: Jan 27, 2009, **Eleni Coundouriotis, Connecticut**  Delete

404: Jan 27, 2009, Jennifer Fontanella, Connecticut  Delete
It is so important to realize that we live in a global community and our children will need to have bi-lingual status to effectively live and work in this community. Language opens the door to opportunities.

403: Jan 22, 2009, Cleo Rahmy, Connecticut  Delete

402: Jan 27, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut  Delete
Learning a foreign language is not only an asset but a necessity in this day and age where businesses are faced by global competition. Ability to communicate and negotiate with foreign business partners is more possible when we are able to understand their native languages.

401: Jan 27, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut  Delete
Foreign Language knowledge is imperative in a global society. In fact, the study of foreign languages should begin in elementary school.

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

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- # 400: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** Delete
As we move towards a more global world, communication in all its aspects must be enhanced to ensure a unity as a people.
- # 399: Jan 27, 2009, **Margaret Lamb, Connecticut** Delete
High school language study is essential for building competencies for living in a linguistically diverse society and creating a deep understanding of how we begin to communicate across difference in our increasingly globalized world.
- # 398: Jan 27, 2009, **Glen MacLeod, Connecticut** Delete
Foreign language competence is becoming MORE, not less important in our increasingly global economy. It is irresponsible to shortchange our high school students in this shortsighted fashion. Give them the language skills they need to succeed.
- # 397: Jan 27, 2009, **Kathleen Pittman, Connecticut** Delete
- # 396: Jan 27, 2009, **Wendy J. Glenn, Connecticut** Delete
The US is not the center of the world.
- # 395: Jan 27, 2009, **Ed W, New York** Delete
In an ever increasingly global economy, it makes absolutely no sense that foreign language is being made so difficult to take in high school and that the two-year requirement is being dropped. We live in a time of instant communication and rapid travel. We need to teach foreign languages now more than ever in order to stay competitive with other countries who value language education. I agree that math and science curriculums should be made more rigorous, but this can be done within the framework of existing courses. It must not be done at the expense of foreign language.
- # 394: Jan 27, 2009, **Catherine Safal, Connecticut** Delete
We should be increasingly global and languages are a critical aspect of the US continuing to be a global presence. The citizens in so many other countries are multilingual we need to step up not away from language learning!
- # 393: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, New York** Delete
- # 392: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** Delete

- # 391: Jan 27, 2009, **Roberta Gordenstein, Connecticut**  Delete
Students need to know another language to function in today's global economy!
- # 390: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Massachusetts**  Delete
In an increasingly global economy it is important to have foreign languages taught to children.
- # 389: Jan 27, 2009, **Linda Levack Dalpe, Connecticut**  Delete
The NEA research findings repeatedly show that the study of language improves higher order, abstract and creative thinking, helps students score higher on standardized tests, enhances career opportunities, promotes cultural awareness and competency, improves chances of college acceptance, achievement and attainment, and benefits understanding and security in our community and society as a whole. Across the state the mission statements of our school districts claim to prepare our students to become "responsible global citizens". The failure to include the study of language in the reform plan diminishes our ability to prepare our future generation to actively participate competitively in this "flat world", forever changed by technology. As Bernd Debusmann, a Reuters columnist states "language is not only a means of communication, it is a window into the mind of other people and a key to their culture." How will we ever have peace in this world, when we don't require the study of another language and culture? A two year high school requirement for the study of foreign language should be seen as a minimum! It is essential to re-examine the reform plan, and re-instate foreign language as a core required subject.
- # 388: Jan 27, 2009, **Sarah Winter, Connecticut**  Delete
With an increasingly globalized economy, Connecticut high school graduates will find themselves at a severe disadvantage if they lack foreign language fluency. Decreasing the foreign language requirement for high school graduation is a shortsighted and mistaken policy.
- # 387: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
How can we expect children to compete in a global market if they have no understanding of other languages? Removing this requirement diminishes the world outlook of our young people, and minimizing the importance of the languages of other countries and cultures perpetuates the stereotype that Americans think we are better than everyone else on the planet. Keep foreign language!
- # 386: Jan 27, 2009, **Joseph Tinnel, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 385: Jan 27, 2009, **Jason Courtmanche, Connecticut**  Delete
The state's plan calls for global education and yet excludes world languages. Do the folks who eliminated world language from the requirements understand what irony is?
- # 384: Jan 27, 2009, **Kerry Bystrom, Connecticut**  Delete
As a college professor invested in the project of helping students become global citizens, I know how important learning a second language in high school is to improving America's future. College is too late for many students to learn this important skill that will give them access to other cultures and an understanding of America's place in a larger world.
- # 383: Jan 27, 2009, **Vincenza Graham, New York**  Delete
Learning a Foreign Language let's our students compete with the world around them...
- # 382: Jan 27, 2009, **Davita Glasberg, Connecticut**  Delete
In an increasingly globalized economy, environment, political and cultural world, it is incumbent upon us to prepare our children as best as possible to function in it. Without foreign language instruction, we as a nation will become more unable to understand and work with the rest of the world, and thus run the danger of becoming more marginalized. All other industrialized and post-industrial nations require their children to know at least 2 languages; without a language requirement we will be sorely out of step. Moreover, by 2050 the US population will be more diverse than ever, with many more languages spoken in addition to English. If our children are to be adequately prepared to be productive citizens they will need to be able to communicate in more than just English.
- # 381: Jan 27, 2009, **Michael Meyer, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 380: Jan 27, 2009, **Charles McLachlan, United Kingdom**  Delete
- # 379: Jan 27, 2009, **Anonymous, New York**  Delete
- # 378: Jan 27, 2009, **Karthik Devarajan, Massachusetts**  Delete
Because we should accept the changes occurring in our country, rather than choosing to be stubborn and ignorant. KD
- # 377: Jan 27, 2009, **Michaela Bertolotti, Connecticut**  Delete
Language learning early in life is VERY important because it stimulates the brain in a certain way that is not possible anymore once a child becomes an adult. It has been shown that children who are exposed to foreign languages at an early age on average perform better in school and college than their monolingual peers. Also, learning foreign languages opens opportunities to children to later study, work and/or live in foreign countries, an extremely enriching experience that I have personally enjoyed very much and that I hope many of today's children will have in the future. Learning languages also helps learn about the customs and traditions and the culture in the target country. Compared to Europe, the US performs poorly in offering foreign language learning in public schools. Let's not step back, let's step forward and make language learning available to ALL children in public schools!! Michaela Bertolotti
- # 376: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete

- # 375: Jan 26, 2009, **Jordano Quaglia, Connecticut**  Delete
High School Language Education having influence in my livelihood is not the primary concern of myself, I believe that the next step for all students on having a chance to know the world and other peoples of the world is to have a chance to learn other peoples' languages and cultures to increase world's tolerance, compassion and common ground in lifting all from ignorance by sharing our common humanity. Communication and the intent to communicate does that.
- # 374: Jan 26, 2009, **Elke Hoppenbrouwers, Connecticut**  Delete
Every person should be exposed to another language besides ones mother tongue. By studying a foreign language we learn about another country, its culture and its people, which will make us more open minded, toferant citizens of the world.
- # 373: Jan 26, 2009, **Richard Prager, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 372: Jan 26, 2009, **William Verrilli, Connecticut**  Delete
I began teaching foreign languages in 1973, and it has been a privilege - I have led groups of students to the countries whose languages I've taught them, and to see them grow in their ability to communicate to so many people has been a blessing.
- # 371: Jan 26, 2009, **Luclano Racco, Connecticut**  Delete
The study of world languages is important for the understanding of different cultures and our ability to fairly and effectively communicate with other peoples around the globe. Our image as a trusting and fair leader in the eyes of the world has somewhat been tarnished in the last 8 years mainly because of our lack of understanding of other cultures. In a world that is getting smaller by the day and a world economy that is increasingly interdependent, it is imperative that we continue our efforts to get to know our friends and foe a lot better. By eliminating or limiting our students' exposure to the study of both world languages and cultures we're only achieving to build a wall of isolation around us. It's a backwards idea. Please, reconsider.
- # 370: Jan 26, 2009, **Stephanie Duchesneau, Connecticut**  Delete
In our global society it is imperative that students speak other languages and that they learn about other cultures and how people from other backgrounds view the world. In order to progress not only as a society but as a world that is becoming economically interdependent we must build understanding and networks. We continue to read article after article in which Americans are left behind or cause problems due to lack of communication or knowledge of a people. It is time to change this. In many other countries people learn to speak two or three languages. When will we ever learn that we will not be the "center of the universe" forever.
- # 369: Jan 26, 2009, **Gregory Semplice, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 368: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
A lot of human services jobs are looking for bilingual people to hire because a lot of people they deal with speak another language other than English and they need people to translate and work with these individuals.
- # 367: Jan 26, 2009, **Lois Hines, Connecticut**  Delete
Of course there should be a minimum two year requirement of foreign language study in high school! I'm surprised that this is even being debated. We have more international opportunities than ever before; why on earth would we want to limit our students by not requiring high school foreign language study?? That seems a little backwards...
- # 366: Jan 26, 2009, **Christopher Clark, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 365: Jan 26, 2009, **Anna G. Cafaro, Massachusetts**  Delete
- # 364: Jan 26, 2009, **Cordella Zukerman, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 363: Jan 26, 2009, **Michael Crota, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 362: Jan 26, 2009, **Anna Maria Gluffre, New York**  Delete
In the global world we are living today, language plays an important role in people's lives. To be able to communicate in a foreign language and bridge the gap is priceless
- # 361: Jan 26, 2009, **Nicholas Pukstas, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 360: Jan 26, 2009, **Deirdre Savarese, Massachusetts**  Delete
- # 359: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 358: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Vermont**  Delete
High School language classes are essential. The world is smaller and we need to be able to appreciate other cultures. The way we are is how we express ourselves. I am bilingual English/French. Without high-school French I would not have met my husband while working in Switzerland. He was able to come here. The US we needed nuclear physicists at that time. If we reach out to others our lives are enriched and our culture and economy grow by leaps and bounds. How can anyone ever think of removing the Foreign language requirement? I would like to hear your reasoning for this.

357: Jan 26, 2009, Anonymous, New York Delete

356: Jan 26, 2009, Alana Bordewieck, Connecticut Delete
Learning a foreign language not only sharpens the intellect, broadens the mind and provides understanding of other cultures but also may facilitate peace and recognizes we are part of a global economy and citizens of the world. I cannot fathom why such a requirement would be eliminated now of all times. Please keep it in.

355: Jan 26, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut Delete

354: Jan 26, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut Delete
I have told my students for years that I challenge them to come up with a career, trade or profession that cannot be enhanced by knowing another language, especially Spanish. The shrinking world demands of us that we discard the Monroe Doctrine attitude and climb on board to join the rest of the countries in multi lingualism....

353: Jan 26, 2009, Lauren Pinzka, Connecticut Delete
Besides the fact that learning another language is one of the best ways to learn English grammar, foreign language acquisition is an essential part of modern life. We live in an interconnected world and to be multilingual is to show respect for and to enter into the mindset of other cultures. How better to promote world peace than to promote the understanding of other cultures? Learning another language permits untold adventures in travel, reading, and general intellectual awareness. It has added so very much to my life and yet I know that without requirements, many students will not rise to the challenge.

352: Jan 26, 2009, Anonymous, Connecticut Delete
Our country will only be well served by our citizens being aware, in this shrinking world of increased communications, that knowledge of at least one language other than one's mother tongue is ESSENTIAL to human understanding and cooperation.

351: Jan 26, 2009, Ingrid L. Mueller, Connecticut Delete
In order to be competitive in the global market place, our students must learn other languages. We cannot be so arrogant as to expect everyone to learn English. By learning a foreign language, we learn to understand another culture, furthering the goal of world peace.

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly
Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 350: Jan 26, 2009, **Angela Proto, Connecticut**
Being exposed to learning a foreign language is an absolutely essential part of education. Although many students may go on in life to find the statement "if you don't use it, you lose it" true about the study of foreign language, their education experience in high school will still have only been complete through the exposure to different languages and different cultures. We live in a global society. If we do not start training our young people from an early age to appreciate the study of other languages and to embrace the cultures of other countries, we are breeding an academic ground where global culture will not be appreciated. Don't cheat the future of our country out of the skills they need in our shrinking world.
- # 349: Jan 26, 2009, **Angela Tauro, Connecticut**
- # 348: Jan 26, 2009, **Michela Knight, Connecticut**
In this time of globalization it seems totally superflous to have to explain why we need to be fluent in a foreign language.
- # 347: Jan 26, 2009, **Marie-Agnès SOURIEAU, Connecticut**
- # 346: Jan 26, 2009, **Martina Luke, Connecticut**
Languages and inter-cultural competences are the most important tools for a global world. It is irresponsible to disregard these facts --- thereby harming the future of the generations to come.
- # 345: Jan 26, 2009, **Jacqueline R. Proto, Connecticut**
The ability to communication is not simply a verbal skill in one's own language. In today's world, the world wide web is linking people of various cultures & languages. It is to the benefit of all Americans that they learn a second language, thus broadening their connection to the wider global community, as well as increasing their personal scores on SAT exams and the like. More Math & Science in place of Language? Not necessary...just look at the college students now excelling in engineering, medicine, computer science, etc. But Language? Ah, that is how the world learns to communicate those very Ideas of Math & Science. Of course, don't forget World Peace, often forged by people of differing cultures who seek to learn & submerge themselves in each other cultures...because we really do have common goals. Let's keep it that way. Keep the Language Engine moving!!
- # 344: Jan 25, 2009, **Lesley Lajole, Massachusetts**
To Whom It May Concern, In today's era of global communication, I find it absolutely amazing that individuals within the field of education would question, or more to the point disregard, the validity of studying a foreign language. For those individuals not aware of the statistical data, numerous independent research studies have been conducted on the positive affects of foreign language learning. Whether one chooses to garner the information via ACTFL, MFLA, or the United States Department of Education, it is clear that students with a foreign language background perform far beyond their counterparts in all areas of academic achievement. Whether students are exposed to traditional Romance Languages or other popular languages of the decade, there is mounting evidence as to improved speaking, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. These skills are not only invaluable for other academic areas, but also for tests like the ACT, SAT or other achievement tests. Additionally,

students of foreign language are proven to further their language learning throughout college and/or the professional sector. I am a perfect example of a student who furthered her foreign language education in order to teach the language I love. In summation, the approach to improved education in our country is not to hack away at the very foundations of our field. One must look for a logical approach in offering our children a varied, yet educationally charged curriculum that stimulates all learning types. Therefore, cutting curricula like music, sports, the arts, and NOW foreign language just reiterates why our country remains non-competitive with the rest of the world. Time to stop throwing the baby out with the bath water folks!

- # 343: Jan 26, 2009, **Cristina Guinazu, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning a foreign language in high school is the best way to comprehend diversity, and respect cultures that differ from ours. It is also a wonderful way to enrich young minds by giving them the tools to express themselves using a different linguistic system.
- # 342: Jan 26, 2009, **Carole Rothschild, Connecticut**  Delete
A student who knows at least two languages is better prepared for the future.
- # 341: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 340: Jan 26, 2009, **Laura D'Auria, Connecticut**  Delete
Our economy is increasing in number, and all residents of the country come from a different background. English is still a primary language, but there are students in schools who do not understand English because they have come to the US in order to receive a better education along with a better life. Eliminating foreign language from high schools will further eliminate it from all school levels making it difficult for any student to further grow in their understanding of the economy and the world around them. I am blessed by being trilingual, and becoming a teacher, this will help me so much more than just English alone. Everyone will be faced with a job offer in another city or country where English is not spoken primarily, so why should we rob students of the opportunities to have more than one door open for them?
- # 339: Jan 26, 2009, **Violet Sims, Connecticut**  Delete
The U.S. is in a dire economic crisis, and foreign countries are taking this as an opportunity. They are gaining on us, and in some cases surpassing us in terms of economic growth. In order for the U.S. to compete on a global scale, our students need to become familiar with another language and culture. Otherwise, we are doing the entire nation a disservice.
- # 338: Jan 26, 2009, **Marta Laboy, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 337: Jan 26, 2009, **Amy Souza, Illinois**  Delete
We simply cannot close our eyes to the increasing globalization of the world.
- # 336: Jan 26, 2009, **Stefania Marzano, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 335: Jan 26, 2009, **Laurie Kopec, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning f.l. opens doors and minds. It also increases vocabulary and improves SAT scores. It prepares the next generation for the competitive world economy it is facing. Removing the FL requirements is handicapping public school students, especially students from low income families. Please, remove the fluff and all the expensive programs that are not working (sex & drug ed.), but keep the FL!
- # 334: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
The world is increasingly global and if we want our country to keep up then our children need to learn foreign languages. Learning foreign language is not only learning how to speak another language. The most important aspect of foreign language learning is learning about other cultures, learning to appreciate and understand differences. We must teach our children that other cultures are rich, important, and have something to teach us. We must teach foreign languages. We rob our children of the opportunity to learn about others and of the chance to be global citizens in a world that is increasingly small.
- # 333: Jan 26, 2009, **Eyle Lindemann, Connecticut**  Delete
I had three years of Spanish in an academically rigorous high school. By the time I got to college, I was in upper division Spanish classes. My ability to speak Spanish has opened many job opportunities to me, including employment at Yale and opportunities to teach and learn in Latin countries. It has also helped me to develop friendships with people with whom I might not have otherwise been able to communicate. In short, it has made all the difference.
- # 332: Jan 26, 2009, **Martha Wallach, Maryland**  Delete
In this age of globalization, we are doing our students a disservice, by not requiring a foreign language for high school graduation. I taught German and Polish at CCSU was active in their exchange programs, and saw my students profit professionally from these opportunities.
- # 331: Jan 26, 2009, **Catherine Labo, Connecticut**  Delete
In-depth knowledge of foreign cultures is essential in today's complex global economy and politics. This requires the mastery of foreign languages. Eliminating the foreign language graduation requirement sends the wrong signal to children. More importantly, it will weaken their ability to function effectively in the global economy and to make informed decisions as American citizens regarding international issues.
- # 330: Jan 26, 2009, **Elizabeth Mahan, Connecticut**  Delete
Language study is a gateway to global competence. It is a foundation on which knowledge of other cultures can be built. Eliminating the high school graduation language requirement will deprive Connecticut students of an important opportunity to build knowledge and skills they will need to work in an increasingly globalized economy.
- # 329: Jan 26, 2009, **Martina Di Florio Gula, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 328:

- Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
- # 327: Jan 26, 2009, **Catherine Wilson, Connecticut**  Delete
My whole life changed because of my foreign language classes in high school. Without them, I would never have travelled or done what I have done. Please keep the requirement!
- # 326: Jan 26, 2009, **Frida Morelli, Connecticut** 
- # 325: Jan 26, 2009, **Patricia Bell, Connecticut**  Delete
Presently, and in times to come, the development of knowledge of world languages and cultures is more important than ever! How antiquated is the view that the teaching of world cultures and their languages NOT be mandatory for all students? How will our American children compete globally? Without the opportunity to learn world languages and cultures in school, generations of American students to come will be at a disadvantage.
- # 324: Jan 26, 2009, **Marie-Liine Bruhl, Connecticut**  Delete
In a world that has become so much more global, it is imperative that American students know more than their own language and understand cultural differences. It should not be an option or a luxury to study a language or two!! We are doing a disservice to our children and this country if we don't embrace the teaching of foreign languages/cultures in high school.
- # 323: Jan 26, 2009, **Annelles Venus, Connecticut** 
- # 322: Jan 26, 2009, **Daniela De pau, Pennsylvania** 
- # 321: Jan 26, 2009, **Carolina Gengo Di Domenico, New York**  Delete
Eliminating foreign language study from the high school curriculum is a huge and irresponsible mistake. Educators should be INCREASING exposure to other languages, not DECREASING it! Our global economy depends on our ability to communicate without hinderances. Denying high school students the opportunity to be multi-language users is denying them the opportunity to compete effectively in the work-force. Do not deny them this vital advantage!
- # 320: Jan 26, 2009, **Marc Douguet, Connecticut** 
- # 319: Jan 26, 2009, **Lisa Boyle, Connecticut**  Delete
Having a high school foreign language requirement helps establish our department's validity within the school system. Therefore students/parents/administration will take our department and our work more seriously.
- # 318: Jan 26, 2009, **Sarinda Wilson, Connecticut**  Delete
languages open doors, break down barriers and help foster peace and understanding. Don't minimize their importance. our kids need French, too - for future careers in health, travelling to islands and French speaking African countries(former French/Belgian colonies) . thanks
- # 317: Jan 26, 2009, **Antonia Michelsen, Connecticut**  Delete
If we want our children to be competitive with the rest of the world, we need to start early to get them ready. By studying a foreign language they not only learn how to speak it, but they also learn about their culture and their people. Our kids need to know that the rest of the world does not see things the way we do. These are some of the reasons, but there is many more. I hope our educators take a second look, before they take us back to the 50's
- # 316: Jan 26, 2009, **Larry Porco, New York**  Delete
In a multi-cultural world with ease of access to other countries via trade, travel, and communication, there should be no question in having American students learn other languages besides English in high school (and elementary school). As a matter of fact, English should be a requirement for those that are not only foreign born wanting to stay here, but also to those that were born here and grew up in an American community whose primary language on the streets is not spoken English, i.e., English used as the official USA language.
- # 315: Jan 26, 2009, **Victoria Tognozzi, California** 
- # 314: Jan 26, 2009, **Kevin CAREY, Connecticut**  Delete
In world where globalization is the obvious trajectory, where the economic, social, cultural implications for future generations are implicit in the learning a second (and dare I say third or fourth) language will determine success, should not a primary focus in the educational objectives of a nation which wishes to continue its hegemony of influence be that of second language requirements in both primary and secondary classrooms? The learning of a second language is not only a skill measured in oral communication but that of cultural as well. How do we regain respect in the world with a 18th and 19th century attitude of linguistic imperialism? Our lack of communication has brought very negative repercussions in the global community. An American people conversant in the language and culture of other nations can only strengthen our position in the global community.
- # 313: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign language study is absolutely necessary given the global world that we are living in. For Connecticut students to be competitive in the workplace (and even in college admissions), foreign language study must remain part of the school's curriculum. Moreover, the study of foreign languages develops critical skills and helps students to use their own language more skillfully. I really learned English grammar through learning Latin and French grammar.
- # 312: Jan 26, 2009, **Barbara Dieu, Brazil**  Delete
Language and how we communicate both reflect and affect one's world view - they reveal and sometimes reinforce how one perceives, interprets and thinks about the world. The knowledge of a foreign language does not only expose us to other structures and systems of meanings which expand our awareness of the world, but also

allows us to better identify and place our own perceptions as we relate them to these other patterns of experience. A monolingual, mono-cultural educational model reproduces a hegemonic view of the world reinforcing an inflexible, insensitive and arrogant stance which denies the possibility of understanding the other.

- # 311: Jan 26, 2009, **Mary allce Mora, Colorado**  Delete
WE live in a world-wide economy and our students need to speak more than just English

- # 310: Jan 26, 2009, **Annabella Donato, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign Languages should be a requirement not only at the high school level-but beginning in early elementary levels as well. We are a global society-like it or not-our children deserve every possible opportunity to be able to communicate and function as educated and informed human beings.

- # 309: Jan 26, 2009, **Betsy Guala, Connecticut**  Delete

- # 308: Jan 26, 2009, **Sara Prattson, Connecticut**  Delete
Having worked for both an industrial corporation (United Technologies) and the health care industry for a combined 23 years, speaking Spanish was invaluable to performing the duties of my position. In dealing with a large Latino population, I was able to communicate effectively with those individuals with limited English, but also gain the trust of those who valued being spoken to in their native language. This knowledge made me more marketable in an increasingly global environment as well. I want my children to be able to do so as well.

- # 307: Jan 26, 2009, **Jeff Futch, Florida**  Delete
I took French in High School and it enriched my life tremendously... It taught me about a different culture, and even to this day I remember much of what I learned... I think even more important would be to require at least 2 years of spanish... it's the most widely spoken foreign language in the united states... (I wish I had taken that as well)

- # 306: Jan 26, 2009, **Heather McChesney, West Virginia**  Delete
I am a high school English teacher in West Virginia. It is important to teach our students new languages. By doing so they are also learning about different cultures. This promotes tolerance. Keep teaching languages and cultures; keep teaching tolerance!

- # 305: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
It's just important for people to learn to speak another language and appreciate the culture that language comes from. Plain and simple.

- # 304: Jan 26, 2009, **MARILYN BOLTON, Tennessee**  Delete

- # 303: Jan 26, 2009, **Ariella Lang, New York**  Delete

- # 302: Jan 26, 2009, **Deborah Pirruccio, Louisiana**  Delete
Learning languages can help people to learn more about other cultures and how to better appreciate them. I also believe that today is vital to help our children to grow up in a society that provides several kinds of programs, particularly high school, in which is possible to learn not only different languages but also their cultures.

- # 301: Jan 26, 2009, **Kendall Gibson, Florida**  Delete
How could anyone think this is a good idea? Not only does it expose students to cultures other than our own, it better prepares them for future schooling and for the job industry. Some grammar points are better understood through another language, for example. And considering the job market today, it is almost NECESSARY to be bilingual. It allows people to communicate with more people, to travel and not be stuck making over-exaggerated gestures in attempts to be understood.

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 300: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, New York**
the study of a language, such as Italian, enhances the entire learning experience. Moreover, in a world that is certainly "global" in nature, a graduating student entering college, needs all of the learning ammunition to move on to greater academic heights. The study of a foreign language enables a student graduate from college to then have additional choices as to careers and job positions, here in the USA and abroad. From a pure pedagogical standpoint, the study of a foreign language "rounds out" the entire learning from middle school thru collegiate study.
- # 299: Jan 26, 2009, **Wolfgang Adolph, Florida**
Although I am not a resident of Connecticut, I would like to strongly urge the Connecticut General Assembly to reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement. In these economically hard times it is especially important that future generation can compete on the world markets, and one advantage is to be able to communicate in the language of the target market. Respectfully, Wolfgang Adolph
- # 298: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**
- # 297: Jan 26, 2009, **Alison P. Schiefer, Connecticut**
- # 296: Jan 26, 2009, **Giulia Cardillo, Connecticut**
- # 295: Jan 26, 2009, **Seth Dickens, Italy**
Why teach languages? Umm.. so that I can speak to any of the rest of the non-English speaking world? Seems obvious to me!
- # 294: Jan 26, 2009, **Silvia Valisa, Florida**
The knowledge of foreign languages and cultures helps each and every person to appreciate the diversity we live in, and to increase the tolerance and open-mindedness we expect of the citizens of the 21st century. Please do not let the Foreign Language requirement drop from Connecticut high school graduation requirement. Languages are doors onto different worlds, but they also dramatically enhance every person's relationship with one's own culture. They can help shaping an identity that is understanding, open to change, and richer from every point of view.
- # 293: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**
An individual should have a right to pick which language they feel is important especially with regards to their heritage. With a global environmet we need to be able to understand and communicate more effectively

- # 292: Jan 26, 2009, **Alessandro Parisi, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 291: Jan 26, 2009, **Marie-Claire Rohinsky, Connecticut**  Delete
Please share why a high school foreign language requirement is important to you! Learning world languages should be required more than ever at all levels of education, to prepare our children to communicate and understand the surrounding world. American Isolationism, linguistic and commercial arrogance are no longer the rule. It is a question of survival for our children.
- # 290: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Rhode Island**  Delete
- # 289: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 288: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
It is crucial that WL be a grad'n requirement at the HS. There should be a continuum of growth and development from Elementary/middle school language instruction-> university level language. This will not only strengthen WL curriculum, it will make students realize the importance of taking WL as seriously as other graduation requirement courses. WL prepares students for diplomacy in the future With our ever shrinking world, it will become essential to have a strong command of a second language
- # 287: Jan 26, 2009, **Lori Davison, Connecticut**  Delete
It's a global world and a global economy. America needs to stop becoming an insular, monolingual society. Most of the rest of the world's peoples speak at least 2 languages, if not more. Let's not leave our children behind!!
- # 286: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 285: Jan 26, 2009, **Wanda S Radetti, New York**  Delete
The world is "smaller", the only borders are the different languages that separate us.... let us make the borders meeting places for understanding and mind expansion that lead to peace and respect for all.
- # 284: Jan 26, 2009, **Christine Swan, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 283: Jan 26, 2009, **Daniel Folger Caner, Connecticut**  Delete
I teach undergraduates at UConn and am highly aware how many are unable not only to speak or read a foreign language, but unable to recognize nuance or in their own language. Although these become college graduates, they are not competent either to do work that involves foreign partnerships, nor dealings with complex texts (i.e., law). This is mainly a high school problem: college is a place to perfect one's language skills, not to begin them for the first time. Connecticut students must not be denied or discouraged from acquiring such basic skills; there is a real danger that CT will become just another parochial US economic. backwater.
- # 282: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, New York**  Delete
- # 281: Jan 26, 2009, **Allan Scheer, Connecticut**  Delete
In a Global Economy, knowledge of a second language is very important.
- # 280: Jan 26, 2009, **Angela Buzzelli, Connecticut**  Delete
Many of our students only get to know about other cultures through language studies. It gives them a sense of understanding as to why other people act and react as they do. In view of our present crisis, would we want to be the only country that does not prepare our students to face the global job markets? What chance will our future employees have against foreign job markets that prepare their students at an early young age to learn and speak not one but several foreign languages by the time they enter high school? For the past fifteen years, I have been accompanying high school students to European countries in the summer. Our students always comment on how much better the Europeans speak our language. Instead, we truly have to work hard to understand those languages because many of us have only begun to study it in the high school. Let us not give our students another reason to lag behind other countries because of their lack of understanding of other cultures and languages. We need to give our students the opportunity to be equal if not better than others and not give them one more reason to fail in the global job markets. Please consider the ramification to our children's' future before you commit this travesty. Sincerely, Angela Buzzelli
- # 279: Jan 26, 2009, **Allison DiCicco, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 278: Jan 26, 2009, **Lourdes Eckstein, Connecticut**  Delete
I feel it is imperative in this day and age that American children learn a foreign language. We need to have a requirement at the High School level for this.
- # 277: Jan 26, 2009, **Daniela Silvestri, Connecticut**  Delete
Even though we are first world nation, we are LACKING in our education of world languages. Taking away the HS FL requirement will put us farther behind. Languages and cultural understanding is the key combination if we wish to continue to be respected globally.
- # 276: Jan 26, 2009, **Erin Larkin, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 275: Jan 26, 2009, **Rosanne Natale O'Hara, Connecticut**  Delete
Our children must learn to communicate to and with others in the world. Thank you

- # 274: Jan 26, 2009, **Stefania Kohler, New Jersey**  Delete
- # 273: Jan 26, 2009, **Nancy Hanson, Connecticut**  Delete
As Americans, we need to compete globally. In Europe, most students speak 2 or 3 languages. To do away with foreign language requirements in the US is unconscionable. It is our duty, as educators, to give our students the communication tools to work with.
- # 272: Jan 26, 2009, **Paula Greenfield, Connecticut**  Delete
In a global economy it is important that all be able to communicate with each other. Our future will be at an extreme disadvantage if we can't understand other cultures and speak their language. It is, therefore, important that we offer foreign languages to our students in high school.
- # 271: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 270: Jan 26, 2009, **Francis Embardo, Connecticut**  Delete
I have been a foreign language teacher for 39 years and cannot tell you how many times former students have told me they wished they had continued on in Spanish or Italian so they could better communicate in the workplace. Since I also teach at a community college, I can attest to the tremendous number of third generation students who want to learn the language of their heritage.
- # 269: Jan 26, 2009, **Anonymous, Germany**  Delete
- # 268: Jan 25, 2009, **Christa Lindsey, California**  Delete
I went to high school in CT (E.O. Smith High) and have found language skills I learned then incredibly helpful not only professionally (as there are many more jobs open to people who are bilingual) but it prepared me academically for my degree at a UC
- # 267: Jan 25, 2009, **Jill Levine, Connecticut**  Delete
Working as an Interpreter in CT courts, I see how valuable it is to be able to work and travel with an in-depth knowledge of more than one language. I see how persons who know only one language can be more easily manipulated, victimized, or have fewer educational and career options.
- # 266: Jan 25, 2009, **Marilyn Lynch, Connecticut**  Delete
It is important for the pure insight of education. But it is also important to keep Americans competitive and engaged in the rest of the world. Just for economic and global issues. World languages should be started in 1st grade. Thank goodness my daughter's school system does this.
- # 265: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Florida**  Delete
- # 264: Jan 25, 2009, **Claudio Scarpelli, Connecticut**  Delete
Young people need to know a foreign language and culture to better understand the modern world we live in.
- # 263: Jan 25, 2009, **Carmen Merolla, Massachusetts**  Delete
To learn a foreign language doesn't just mean to learn a bunch of grammar rules in another language. It means to open up kids' minds, to show them different realities, to make them eager to know more and to enhance their interest in different cultures. It means to help kids become better prepared professionals. Let American kids learn a foreign language. They will no longer be victim of the old joke that says that a trilingual is a person who can speak three languages, a bilingual is a person who can speak two languages and a monolingual is an American. This is incredibly sad.
- # 262: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Florida**  Delete
- # 261: Jan 25, 2009, **Jacqueline Reich, New York**  Delete
- # 260: Jan 25, 2009, **Geetha Shenoy, Connecticut**  Delete
A high school foreign language requirement is a "must have" for every student to expand their world view and an understanding of thought and culture besides their own. In today's global environment not knowing atleast one, if not a few, foreign languages narrows your opportunities and limits your understanding in dealing with an increasingly global stage in any field of work or study.
- # 259: Jan 25, 2009, **Riccardo Mancuso, New York**  Delete
Children in foreign language programs have tended to demonstrate greater cognitive development, creativity, and divergent thinking than monolingual children.
- # 258: Jan 25, 2009, **Craig Butler, New York**  Delete
Let's help US children be competitive in the global community! We cannot let them down by keeping them monolingual.
- # 257: Jan 25, 2009, **Anna Iacovella, Connecticut**  Delete
I strongly support a foreign language high school graduation requirement in Connecticut.
- # 256: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Other nations require students to know at least one foreign language. The US would be placing many HS graduates at an inferior skill level compared to their cohorts

worldwide. Not only will they be robbed of the richness of other cultures but other subject areas will be affected as well, since foreign language learning develops necessary critical and analytical thinking skills.

255: Jan 25, 2009, **Regina Grammatico, Connecticut**  Delete

254: Jan 25, 2009, **Elizabeth Neger, Connecticut**  Delete

253: Jan 25, 2009, **Thomas Ward, Maryland**  Delete
 When I was a graduate student studying Spanish at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, every year we would go to Hartford to judge a poetry competition by high school students. The students were very engaged both in the rendition (aesthetics) and in the meaning (content). The COLT poetry competition is a truly inspirational event. I now teach Spanish/Latin American literature at Loyola College. The students with fewer years of a second language have great difficulty getting through the core requirement; the students without any second language study at all would not be admitted to Loyola College, pure and simple. If Connecticut's language requirement is reduced or rescinded it will be a severe blow to the state's ability to compete globally, and in terms of Spanish, it will represent a barrier between native Spanish speakers and native English speakers. This would be a shame for a state with so many Spanish speakers. Please do not do make Connecticut a provincial backwater to the United States, to the world.

252: Jan 25, 2009, **Denise O'Leary, Connecticut**  Delete
 I am a math teacher who is concerned for the children we educate in Connecticut if we drop a foreign language requirement for graduation. We are a nation who struggles to compete on international levels in economics, business, health care, etc. If we knowingly create a communication barrier with other nations I believe we are taking a step backwards rather than forward in the internationally competitive world. I once heard a "joke" defining multilingualistic as being able to speak three or more languages. Bi-lingual was the ability to speak two languages, and monolingual was defined as an American. Truth hurts. In my international travels I find this joke to have some truth to it. In a recent trip to Tunisia, a developing country, I generally found the younger Tunisian people to be multilingualistic. It was certainly an asset to their #1 business, tourism. Please give our American children a fighting chance in their future. Give them the tools to communicate with other nations and an understanding of other cultures. Give them a foreign language requirement for graduation.

251: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
 In just about every country, people can speak at least 2 languages compared to the United States. Our country is so diverse, it would only make sense to start learning different languages.

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

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signatures!

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 250: Jan 25, 2009, **Kristin Mancini, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 249: Jan 25, 2009, **Carmela Guarnieri, New Jersey** [Delete](#)
- # 248: Jan 25, 2009, **Julia Kushigian, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Connecticut has always been a leader in education and skill development such as critical thinking and problem solving. To do away with a Foreign Language Requirement that supports higher level thinking in a multicultural, globalized world reflects a narrow-minded reversal of advances fought for over the last century, leading to a closing of minds along with national borders. While we encourage the development of math and science skills we view the need to do this as a dialog with other disciplines so that we are preparing bold new thinkers for a challenging economy and future. The American Chemical Society supports this vision and has included the study of foreign languages as important to their mission as well.
- # 247: Jan 25, 2009, **Patricia Villella, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
How can we compete globally if our students are not required to be exposed to another world language. In other countries of the world, students in secondary schools not only are required to study one foreign language but in many instances study two!
- # 246: Jan 25, 2009, **Fabian Lemp, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Foreign languages are an important part of our increasingly globalized society. By removing the FL requirement, many of the lazier high school students will not take any FLs. This will set these students up for trouble as they proceed through the rest of their lives with familiarity in only a single language. I was one of those lazy students who would not have taken FL classes, however the requirement forced me to. I am now grateful of that requirement as my FL skills have given me many advantages since then.
- # 245: Jan 25, 2009, **Brooke Purdy, California** [Delete](#)
This country is founded on diversity and cultural expansion- why would we ever compromise that?
- # 244: Jan 25, 2009, **Joseph Tarzia, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
We have a terrible record as a country in our lack of support for foreign languages. It is in our economic self interest to wake up.
- # 243: Jan 25, 2009, **Angelo Raus, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
I know English is the mother language, but learning a foreign language won't hurt, it will help because it has the latin language roots.
- # 242:

- Jan 25, 2009, **Elisabetta Gasparoni-Abraham, California** 
- # 241: Jan 25, 2009, **Jane Vercelli, Connecticut** 
Most children in the United States think of themselves as citizens of a nation separate from the rest of the world because our schools, unlike schools in Europe, do not introduce foreign languages in elementary school. We wait until the mental window has started to close for learning languages at around age 12. It is shocking to know that supposedly educated people on an ad hoc committee in our state of Connecticut want to lower the standards further by eliminating the high school foreign language requirement. I home schooled my younger child for elementary school in Connecticut so that he would learn a foreign language early and not wait until high school. Learning a foreign language opens the window into a wider cultural view of the world, beginning with the way other languages phrase common ideas in a different way showing that the American view of culture and people is NOT the ONLY way to see the world. When my older son went to public school kindergarten in Connecticut, the students learned NOTHING. They only played and my son, who read his first sentence at age 3 and a half, was told to repeat kindergarten because he was a loner and did not socialize the way other children did. So he repeated kindergarten which accomplished NOTHING and was bored to tears until we put him in private school. A friend from Ukraine told me last week that he is upset that his first grade son in the Hartford area is NOT learning multiplication tables yet the way first graders in Ukraine learn them. The problem with our public schools is that our expectations for elementary age children are so low that by the time these children are in high school, we try to make up for years of low standards by demanding that they do everything in high school. Actual learning needs to begin the moment a child goes to kindergarten. Eliminating the foreign language requirement in public high schools is a good way to insure that parents in Connecticut will have another reason to flood our private schools, of which there are fortunately many, and soon, we will be like the District of Columbia where there are two school systems: excellent private schools for the haves and the deserving and horrible public schools for the have-nots and the left-behinds.
- # 240: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
Learning a language is a skill that remains unmatched by many other skills taught by our education. The idea of communication is one that has not only made our world an easier place to understand, but a place where people with different ethical and cultural backgrounds can grasp each others methods. By taking away this privilege and encouraging a weak work ethic, you are telling America to not work as hard. As people realize our own government wishes to do this, you will see a quick and reasonable drop in hard working citizens. By encouraging language teaching, you tell students they must work hard, and you see how proud they are when they can communicate with foreign peers and classmates. Do the world a favor, and allow languages to be taught and encouraged in all parts of our world.
- # 239: Jan 25, 2009, **Jakub Kazecki, Connecticut** 
- # 238: Jan 25, 2009, **Michela Pirruccio, Connecticut** 
Knowledge of a foreign language is vital to expanded learning and understanding of the many cultures that exist both in the U.S.A as well as the rest of the world.
- # 237: Jan 25, 2009, **Alfonso Varona, Connecticut** 
In this so-called globalized world, intercultural skills are as important as science and math. Learning a foreign language is the first step towards becoming culturally aware.
- # 236: Jan 25, 2009, **Lillian Uribe, Connecticut** 
- # 235: Jan 25, 2009, **Bruna Boyle, Rhode Island** 
Consider these research results: •SAT scores are directly affected by foreign language study and have been shown to increase the vocabulary/verbal scores from 72 to 149 points. •Immediate benefits of early learning of a foreign language include greater academic achievement in other areas of study – including reading, social studies, and mathematics. •Children who have studied a foreign language show greater cognitive development in such areas as mental flexibility, creativity, divergent thinking, and higher-order thinking skills. •Communication skills, including memory and listening skills are sharpened by foreign language study. •Children who study a foreign language have an improved self-concept and sense of achievement in school. •Neurobiological research strongly suggests that the best time for a child to learn a second or third language is before age 10. •Long-range benefits include enhanced career opportunities, developing more flexibility in thinking processes and exchanging professional ideas and information in commerce, science, law and the arts.
- # 234: Jan 25, 2009, **Rosetta Gullani Caponetto, Connecticut** 
Taking one or more foreign languages in high school will help students to serve in a diverse and changing world; it will instill in them a restless curiosity for people other than them and teach them the cultural responsibilities that come in building a more equitable society.
- # 233: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
Learning a foreign language is essential to students, as it not only broadens their linguistic, cultural and ethnic knowledge, but also greatly improves their grammatical understanding of English, improves SAT scores and makes them more "worldly".
- # 232: Jan 25, 2009, **Marian Flores, Connecticut** 
When students are taught a language, they not only learn a new tongue, they learn about a different culture, customs, and the world. By cutting and eliminating language in our classrooms, we are handicapping the next generation to understand a world that is continually getting smaller. We are only hurting ourselves as a country.
- # 231: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
Our country needs to form young adults who are open to other cultures. Studying a language does precisely that. If more citizens are competent in foreign languages, our country will be more competitive on all fronts.
- # 230: Jan 25, 2009, **Monica Georgeo, Connecticut** 
A high school foreign language requirement important to the mental, cognitive development of the students. Foreign language studies improve knowledge of native language grammar and facilitates its understanding. Today, in order to maintain a good job, we need to speak at least an other language, other than our own. The earlier we start, the better it is.
- # 229: Jan 25, 2009, **Mirela Gjino, Connecticut** 
When people start thinking about building a new house they think about windows. They want to have as many windows as possible. And people want the windows to be as big as possible also. Everyone of us would love to live in a house like that, don't we? So, if we close our eyes for a second are we able to imagine a house without

windows.My self, I can not..... In this case I would like to compare windows to foreign languages.Without it we are going to stop being able to learn tens or hundreds or thousands of beautiful diversities coming through spiking or understanding foreign languages.If someone wants to know why ? Sure.I will tell you not ten reasons but one,only one my friend. I think it will keep the USA competitive.Bravo to signer #208.

228: Jan 25, 2009, **Sherry Porter Shamash, Connecticut** 

227: Jan 25, 2009, **Fabiana Cecchini, Texas** 

226: Jan 25, 2009, **Tullio Pagano, Pennsylvania** 

Knowledge of foreign languages is very important, today more than ever before. Please reconsider your decision to eliminate the language requirement. Thank you!

225: Jan 25, 2009, **James Austin, Connecticut** 

Knowing a foreign language increases cognitive (intellectual) ability, and connects citizens to the world economy in ways that English alone can't.

224: Jan 25, 2009, **Elizabeth Zegura, Arizona** 

A high school foreign language requirement is essential for any student applying to college, and it is important even for those who do not. Foreign languages open our eyes and ears to the world and to the voices and perspectives of others. They improve our skills in English, hone our analytical abilities, and help develop the adolescent brain -- when learning a second language is far easier than it will be during college or later in life. Knowing a second, third, or fourth language also gives young people an advantage in the work place and enhances their professional options and career choices. Having second- and third-language skills can help job seekers gain employment in areas as diverse as hotel and restaurant services, international banking, law, journalism, merchandising and retailing, business, art, dance, music, diplomacy, international relations, cuisine, medicine, science and technology, broadcasting, and so forth. I personally know former students of mine who have gained employment and USED THEIR FOREIGN LANGUAGE SKILLS in all of these fields. Most of all, language and the ability to communicate are bridges to world peace and understanding. I urge you to reinstate the Foreign Language High School Graduation Requirement -- far from being a luxury, it is essential in our global economy and our increasingly "internationalized" world!

223: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, New Jersey** 

We are living in a global society and knowledge of another language is crucial to understanding other cultures. Education systems in other countries stress the importance of language learning, let's not fall behind!

222: Jan 25, 2009, **Kimberly Embacher, Connecticut** 

My high school foreign language program provided me with the opportunity to expand my Spanish skills by traveling to Spain, and also helped me find a path for my college career.

221: Jan 25, 2009, **Slavica Grujicic, Canada** 

220: Jan 25, 2009, **Gabrielle Popoff, New York** 

Speaking more than one language is a key asset, both personally and careerwise. Learning languages while still young and able to focus on your education is of vital importance.

219: Jan 25, 2009, **Carla Cristina Silva-Muhammad, Connecticut** 

218: Jan 25, 2009, **Russell Ewen, Connecticut** 

It is important for students to learn a foreign language because it offers opportunities to develop friendships with people from other countries and expose them to different cultures. It's a pillar in education that promotes world peace.

217: Jan 25, 2009, **Carrie Groebner, Florida** 

I'm a graduate of the university of central Florida and know first hand how little importance Florida places on foreign language importance having attended a Florida highschool and never feeling anything like international history or the ideas of a global community were important. Now I work in an international tourist market and wish either Spanish or Portuguese were my second language as it works as a disadvantage to me in my communication and sales. But more than that, I would love to read literature of writers I love in their native language.

216: Jan 25, 2009, **Ombretta Frau, Massachusetts** 

215: Jan 25, 2009, **Gustavo Mejia, Connecticut** 

There are few mental activities as important to people as learning a language. Learning a second language, is not only important in cultural, or economic terms, but it adds to the intellectual development of children and young men and women by helping them develop connections that lead to a more complex understanding of the world. Eliminating the foreign language requirement for graduation will have many undesirable consequences, but two of them can be treated briefly: 1) Only the children of the upper class and the more highly educated will continue to study languages outside of the school because their parents understand the importance of learning a second language and can afford to pay for private lessons. 2) Our students will become less competitive in the academic market when they are looking for the best colleges and universities, and will eventually end up studying the language at college level, when the most favorable conditions for success have passed. Please do a service to our youth. Reinstate the language requirement for high school graduation.

214: Jan 25, 2009, **Maria Enrico, New York** 

In an era of globalization and increased non-native population in the US I find it incomprehensible that the foreign language requirement will be removed! The state's students will be at a permanent competitive and intellectual disadvantage compared to those of the rest of the country.

213:

Jan 25, 2009, **Marla Marinello, New York** [Delete](#)

212: Jan 25, 2009, **Amy Dooling, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Fluency in languages other than English are more critical than ever at this moment in global history. The US and the state of Connecticut cannot afford not to invest in this critical part of the contemporary education of our youth.

211: Jan 25, 2009, **Catherine Sama, Rhode Island** [Delete](#)
In today's global society it is ESSENTIAL for U.S. citizens to be bi- or multilingual.

210: Jan 25, 2009, **Concettina Marzano, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Proud of my heritage and support the cultural advancement of our ancestry, thus will ensure that the sweat and labors of our forefathers will never be forgotten.

209: Jan 25, 2009, **Andrea Moudarres, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

208: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
I think it will keep the USA competitive. Most countries take 3 or more languages or have taken by the time they are in high school. It makes for a well rounded education. You can truly appreciate your own country/culture and others more by studying a world language. It helps with SAT learning! WHY NOT? Perhaps, it should be a requirement with an "or" clause....All students should choose from "an art _____OR a world language. Why wouldn't it be worthy of being a requirement...what makes the other requirements more worthy?

207: Jan 25, 2009, **Giuliana Palma, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

206: Jan 25, 2009, **Michael Perma, New York** [Delete](#)
By removing foreign language study from the required list of subjects of study, you are putting our future generations at a great disadvantage in the already highly competitive job market. Students in Europe and Asia begin foreign language study at the elementary level and many are more proficient in English than American-born students. Stop lowering the bar in order to make the numbers look good regarding graduation rate in Connecticut.

205: Jan 25, 2009, **Stefano Albertini, New York** [Delete](#)
The only way to really know well your own language is to know at least another one.

204: Jan 25, 2009, **Michael Meadows, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
In an increasingly globalized society, it makes no sense to cut FL study!

203: Jan 25, 2009, **Francesca Parmeggiani, New York** [Delete](#)

202: Jan 25, 2009, **Carmela Pesca, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
It is extremely important that all children receive the best education and reach the highest proficiency level that schools can provide in languages other than English. Reinstating the High School graduation requirement in Foreign Languages in Connecticut is essential to achieve multicultural knowledge and understanding of today's world.

201: Jan 25, 2009, **Marie Plasse, Massachusetts** [Delete](#)
I teach at a Massachusetts college where foreign language requirements are also in jeopardy. I believe that foreign language instruction and the cultural awareness it fosters are essential for all students in our global society. These things are especially crucial now, when, under a new administration, the U.S. seeks to repair its tattered global relations. This will be impossible unless we foster cultural awareness and interconnection at every level.

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and Include your personal story.

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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 200: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

- # 199: Jan 25, 2009, **Ruth Kofzlm, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
One language has never been enough, and that is more true than ever. Even for students who will never travel outside the borders of the United States, the ability to speak and understand, read and write a second or third language brings undentable social, professional and personal rewards.

- # 198: Jan 25, 2009, **Marion Gehlker, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

- # 197: Jan 25, 2009, **Francesco Ciabottoni, Canada** [Delete](#)
Chers monsieur le Commissaire et membres du comité de l'Education du Connecticut, êtes-vous vraiment sûres de supprimer le cours obligatoire de langue étrangère? E' una decisione sbagliata e rischiosa, che priva gli studenti di un'opportunità importante nella loro formazione: senza lingua straniera la mente s'impoverisce e invecchia prima. How many in the committee are not able to understand the above? Training in a foreign language in high school open hte mlnds, possibly more than any subject matter. It provides youths with the tools and the curiosity to better understand the world around them: both other countries' cultures and their own culture and language. Moreover, students who get to college with no language training struggle through their coursework and find most classes more difficult to follow than those who have had some years of language and grammar. Connecticut is a state with a tradition that highly values humanistic culture: The Commissioner of Education and the committee ought to offer its citizens a better service by valuing language learning and NOT remove the high school foreign language requirement.

- # 196: Jan 25, 2009, **Silvia Byer, Kansas** [Delete](#)
Spanish and Italian and French

- # 195: Jan 25, 2009, **Alberto Zambenedetti, New York** [Delete](#)

- # 194: Jan 25, 2009, **Risa Sodi, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
As a mother, I saw the importance of high school foreign language education for my children's view of themselves and the world. As a college language teacher in Connecticut, I welcome well-prepared, globally-aware students. I urge the Connecticut General Assembly to reinstate the foreign language high school graduate requirement.

- # 193: Jan 25, 2009, **Andrea Baldi, New Jersey** [Delete](#)
I believe the learning of foreign languages is essential to the progress of our multi-cultural society, in order to foster the understanding of cultural diversity and improve international relationships.

- # 192: Jan 25, 2009, **Gabrielle Sims, New York**  Delete
I teach foreign languages at the university level, and I find that students who have had previous exposure to any language other than their own are not only more linguistically aware (of their own language tool of grammar in general), but are also more culturally aware. The more capable they are in foreign languages the more careers and graduate programs open up for them after college too, and only if they begin to learn young will their abilities be strong enough for such opportunities.
- # 191: Jan 25, 2009, **Laura Prelipcean, Canada**  Delete
It is imperative that students learn foreign languages. Thus, they will broaden their perspectives on life, cultures, and languages. Foreign languages also stimulate intellectual growth.
- # 190: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Massachusetts**  Delete
Connecticut, once a beacon of high school education, seems to have lost its way. http://www.actfl.org/files/public/ACTFL_Final_2008_completeLOW.pdf
- # 189: Jan 25, 2009, **Manuela Marchesini, Texas**  Delete
- # 188: Jan 25, 2009, **Roberta Ricci, Pennsylvania**  Delete
- # 187: Jan 25, 2009, **Mary Ann Carolan, Connecticut**  Delete
Our students need foreign languages to understand and appreciate cultures other than their own. This need will become even more acute with increasing globalization.
- # 186: Jan 25, 2009, **Paloma Lapuerta, Connecticut**  Delete
By eliminating the requirement we are making the study of foreign languages restrictive to an elite which will always consider it of major importance, and we will take the opportunity from others that cannot afford private foreign language instruction. Eliminating the Foreign Language requirement will also contribute to the already extended culture of English Only.
- # 185: Jan 25, 2009, **Beatrice BARBALATO, Belgium**  Delete
L'apprendimento di una lingua e cultura 'altra' favorisce (approfondisce, e accelera) i processi cognitivi
- # 184: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
To eliminate foreign language graduation requirement in Connecticut will blur the worldwide vision of our future generation.
- # 183: Jan 25, 2009, **Giuliana O'Connell, Connecticut**  Delete
The world of communication has expanded. We live in a global world. Most European nations teach foreign languages beginning in kindergarten...why here in CT do we have to go backward instead of forward? Why do you want to offer less of an education to our future citizens?
- # 182: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, New York**  Delete
In a foreign language class students don't only learn a language different than their own, but also a different culture. It promotes understanding, respect and tolerance of what is different. Eliminating languages other than English from the curriculum is stepping backwards instead of moving forwards.
- # 181: Jan 25, 2009, **Virginia Picchietti, Pennsylvania**  Delete
- # 180: Jan 25, 2009, **Christiana Purdy, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 179: Jan 25, 2009, **Maria Truglio, Pennsylvania**  Delete
- # 178: Jan 25, 2009, **Enrico Minardi, Wisconsin**  Delete
- # 177: Jan 25, 2009, **RogerCelestin Celestin, Connecticut**  Delete
When local, state and federal governments loudly trumpet the need for Americans to exist and thrive in a globalized and multicultural world, they should put their money where their mouth is. To eliminate the foreign language requirement is tantamount to creating generations of monolingual, isolated, provincial citizens.
- # 176: Jan 25, 2009, **Anthony Della Penna, New York**  Delete
- # 175: Jan 25, 2009, **Valerio Ferme, Colorado**  Delete
Learning a foreign language is not just a credit we assign our kids, it is a way of life. Learning foreign languages allows us to be less culturally insular than we might be if we did not know about other languages and cultures. In addition, it is a mental tool that gives our mind flexibility and the ability to think outside the box. By eliminating this requirement, we are not enhancing our students' scientific skills, just reducing their options in other fields (one need think only of the fact that we are outsourcing jobs to workers and in countries where people learn, obviously, more than one language to increase their marketability). Our new President became who he is because he had exposure to multiple cultures and languages, not because he was shut off from them. The world is changing and we want to change with it, not close ourselves to it.
- # 174: Jan 25, 2009, **Anna Papparcone, Pennsylvania**  Delete
Removing the two year foreign language requirement from high school means highly reducing the possibility of many young people to know and communicate with other cultures. "A SUPERIOR Education for Connecticut's 21st Century Learners" should not include such a limitation. Furthermore, math and science classes will

overflow (to the detriment of students in the first place), and professors of language will lose their job for lack of students.

- # 173: Jan 25, 2009, **Mario Costa, New York**  Delete
- # 172: Jan 25, 2009, **Carol Chlodo, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 171: Jan 25, 2009, **Salvatore Borriello, Italy**  Delete
- # 170: Jan 25, 2009, **Giuseppe Gazzola, New York**  Delete
Are we sure we want the rest of the world to think that the Department of Education of CT does not consider exposure to a foreign language an essential part of the curriculum?
- # 169: Jan 25, 2009, **Pina Palma, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 168: Jan 25, 2009, **Gloria Pastorino, New Jersey**  Delete
In a world that tends towards globalization everyday in every possible economic and social way, limiting students' abilities to begin opening up --even marginally-- to a foreign language and culture is remarkably short-sighted. There are no advantages to doing such a thing except creating less informed, less curious, and more parochial citizens.
- # 167: Jan 25, 2009, **Daniel Indicani, Massachusetts**  Delete
I teach foreign languages in Massachusetts. Eliminating a foreign language requirement would decrease enrollment in foreign language courses. In these times of international strife and conflict, a foreign language education is essential to understanding the place of the United States in the world and its relationship with other countries. Studying foreign languages helps people to understand other cultures. This understanding lacks in an era when the United States has isolated itself from other countries and acted singularly in its foreign policy. Being able to see the world from another's perspective helps to end that singular vision.
- # 166: Jan 25, 2009, **Nicoletta Pireddu, Washington D.C.**  Delete
The US education system cannot create future generations of responsible global citizens without giving foreign languages the highest priority in school curricula.
- # 165: Jan 25, 2009, **Anonymous, Massachusetts**  Delete
- # 164: Jan 25, 2009, **Pasquale Di Matteo, Connecticut**  Delete
I am a world language teacher and in my experience the US is far behind other countries in terms of having students speak another language. I have always been proud of Connecticut for the dedication its world language teachers commit to the education of its youth. If Connecticut truly wants to prepare young people for the future, it needs to show that learning another language is not an elective; it is a necessity.
- # 163: Jan 25, 2009, **Manuela Gleri, Italy**  Delete
At a time like this, perhaps more than ever before, it seems imperative to know "the other from oneself". Language is one of the means we have to communicate with one another.
- # 162: Jan 25, 2009, **Angela Matilde Capodivacca, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 161: Jan 25, 2009, **Alessandra Di Maio, California**  Delete
- # 160: Jan 25, 2009, **Arielle Salber, Maine**  Delete
- # 159: Jan 25, 2009, **Yuri Gualana, Italy**  Delete
- # 158: Jan 25, 2009, **Ivano Fulgaro, Ohio**  Delete
- # 156: Jan 25, 2009, **Cosimo Mazzaferro, New York**  Delete
To Whom it May Concern, Foreign languages are essential nowadays. We live in a global economy. It is critical that foreign languages continue to be part of our educational system. We need to move forward not backward. Please keep our languages alive and don't take away languages from our children. Thank you, C. Mazzaferro
- # 155: Jan 24, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
The study of multiple world languages is imperative in order to prepare students for the future, for we teach not only how to communicate, but also why other people and cultures live the way they do.
- # 154: Jan 24, 2009, **Sharon Nicholson, New York**  Delete
As our population becomes more diverse, it is imperative to continue to offer students foreign language as part of a broad-based curriculum
- # 153: Jan 24, 2009, **Maria Proto, Connecticut**  Delete

There is no way any graduating student would be prepared for the business world without even the slightest knowledge of a foreign language, this is just ridiculous to think the school system would ever get rid of it.

152: Jan 24, 2009, **David Del Principe, New York**  Delete
Learning a foreign language is essential.

151: Jan 24, 2009, **Carl Lemp, Connecticut**  Delete
It seems very short-sighted to cut foreign language instruction just as our economy is in the middle of a transition from national to global. Foreign languages will become more important rather than less important in the future.

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BOOKMARK

Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

768
signatures!

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You can do more! [Show me more petitions](#) »

We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 150: Jan 21, 2009, **Stephanie Jed, California** [Delete](#)
The experience of learning a foreign language is fundamental to learning about anyone who thinks differently and in different terms. It is also fundamental to learning and practicing and integrating all kinds of information. Eliminating foreign language study from the high school curriculum would put Connecticut students at a serious disadvantage vis-a-vis other students in the U.S. and around the world.
- # 149: Jan 24, 2009, **Alleen Sirey, New York** [Delete](#)
Foreign language and culture are extremely important for a well rounded, cultured individual
- # 148: Jan 23, 2009, **Olga Kagan, California** [Delete](#)
Languages are important for this country for many reasons: national security is in jeopardy if we don't have people who understand other languages and cultures; to be educated one needs to know at least one foreign language, otherwise the person remains insular, as does the country that does not promote cultures and languages other than its own. If students do not study languages in K-12, by the time they get to college they do not know the grammar of English, do not understand the value of learning a language, and do not know what one needs to do to learn a language. Removing languages from the graduation requirement is cheating students of quality education and closing career paths for them.
- # 147: Jan 24, 2009, **Laura Battisti, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
World Languages are the key to be successful in the 21 century global economy.
- # 146: Jan 24, 2009, **Anonymous, Florida** [Delete](#)
- # 145: Jan 24, 2009, **Franco Pierno, Canada** [Delete](#)
- # 144: Jan 24, 2009, **Anonymous, Florida** [Delete](#)
- # 143: Jan 24, 2009, **Judy Serafini-Sauli, New York** [Delete](#)
Most of the world is multilingual and in addition to being a tool of communication language study is a discipline as formative as math and science.

- # 142: Jan 23, 2009, **Anonymous, New York**  Delete
I am a language teacher in NY and cannot imagine high school without any kind of foreign language requirement. We need to teach our students to become GLOBAL CITIZENS in an increasingly diverse world. What better way to do that than to expose a child to all that foreign languages have to offer?
- # 141: Jan 23, 2009, **Richard Lansing, Massachusetts**  Delete
In an age of greater awareness of other cultures and their impacts on ours, relaxing or abandoning a foreign language requirement in high school will only make students less prepared for both academic work in college and for understanding other members of the global community.
- # 140: Jan 23, 2009, **Anonymous, Maryland**  Delete
I am a foreign language educator at the post-secondary level. At my university we have many students from CT who are wonderful students in our foreign language classes. Our university requires high school foreign language experience for admission and it would be extremely upsetting to see such talented and bright Connecticut students turned away due to the fact that they were not provided with the opportunity to complete this foreign language experience at the secondary level.
- # 139: Jan 23, 2009, **Donna Messina, New York**  Delete
I am a High School Spanish and Italian teacher in New York and feel that second language is an integral part of a well rounded student. Foreign language study increases a general awareness of culture, cuisine, history and geography as well when taught within established guidelines. It also helps the student to learn more about his own English language as it forces the student to study English grammar. Please bring back high school foreign language study to the classrooms of Connecticut because you are depriving your students of a richness that can only be expressed through this form of study. Sincerely, Donna Messina St. Joseph By the Sea High School 5150 Hylan Blvd. Staten Island, New York 10312
- # 138: Jan 23, 2009, **Irena Bejo, New Jersey**  Delete
Learning foreign language help to live in this global world and economy. As well studying another language help to know and understand other culture. No one should forget that we live in the 21st century and such decision is like going backwards.
- # 137: Jan 23, 2009, **Enza Antenos-Conforti, New Jersey**  Delete
To demonstrate the power of language and culture as distinct as any individual. Now, with the current president, language and culture is as rich in the White House as it is around the world. The world is changing and we need to be able to prepare our students not only in math and science, but in general knowledge of other languages and cultures.
- # 136: Jan 23, 2009, **Mario Mignone, New York**  Delete
In a global economy language and cultural understanding become important keys in competitiveness. The European Union has made language requirement from elementary school to high school. We should adapt their wise and intelligent policy.
- # 135: Jan 23, 2009, **Claudia Berns, New York**  Delete
With global communication becoming increasingly more important, do we want our children to be the least equipped to make their way in this world? If we want to maintain our world leadership position we cannot isolate ourselves. European children learn more than one language and grow up able to freely converse with citizens of other nations. Let us not handicap our future generations.
- # 134: Jan 23, 2009, **Anonymous, New Jersey**  Delete
- # 133: Jan 23, 2009, **Peter Pedroni, Ohio**  Delete
- # 132: Jan 23, 2009, **Gerry Milligan, New York**  Delete
Foreign language classrooms have become the sole place where students learn structures of grammar. The true irony is that those of us who speak English as a native language depend on FL classrooms to improve English language skills.
- # 131: Jan 23, 2009, **Elissa Tognozzi, California**  Delete
Requiring students to study another language is essential in this global economy. Notwithstanding the economy, studying another language is a step toward respecting and understanding other cultures. To cut out a requirement that not only is in line with our new President's ideas on education, but which also has proven significant benefits in the overall education of children is short-sighted and wrong. If you go in this direction, you will be going backwards.
- # 130: Jan 23, 2009, **Giorgio Melloni, New York**  Delete
- # 129: Jan 23, 2009, **Leslie Zarker Morgan, Maryland**  Delete
In order to appreciate other cultures and world views we all need to have preparation in other languages!
- # 128: Jan 23, 2009, **William Russo, New Jersey**  Delete
For children and adults as well learning another language is more than words. The study of language promotes understanding among cultures and their people. Language learning builds bridges and promotes world communication and peace as well as intra-national appreciation for the immigrant experience and what better nation of immigrants is there than America!
- # 127: Jan 23, 2009, **Alessandro Carrera, Texas**  Delete
Foreign languages are integral part of the school curriculum. They are as important as any other subject.
- # 126: Jan 23, 2009, **Edna Echevarria, Puerto Rico**  Delete

- # 125: Jan 23, 2009, **Anonymous, Indiana**  Delete
- # 124: Jan 24, 2009, **Adriana Bertola, Connecticut**  Delete
In the year 2009, with so many researches about human brain supporting the study of languages, it should be needless to explain why FL should be a requirement for high school graduation.
- # 123: Jan 24, 2009, **MariaGrazia Spina, Florida**  Delete
I am European and therefore I see the HUGE difference between the high school education system in Europe and in the US. If the US keeps taking subjects away, their students will soon hit the bottom in terms of preparation compared to the other industrialized nations. Americans have to understand the importance of a foreign language in every student curriculum, it is a subject that cannot be left out.
- # 122: Jan 23, 2009, **Anthony Julian Tamburri, New York**  Delete
I underscore everything that Marcello Pelliccioni says! In addition, we simply cannot afford to signal to the rest of the world that we expect them to learn our language only... We live in a global society, and we need to be sure that our children and grand-children adapt accordingly. Professor & Dean, Queens College/CUNY
- # 121: Jan 24, 2009, **Allison Cornish, Michigan**  Delete
Languages should be learned while we are young. They exercise your brain and open your mind. Foreign languages are not hard to learn: everybody does it -- except, it seems, Americans. Why do we want to be more ignorant, more disadvantaged than the rest of the world?
- # 120: Jan 24, 2009, **Matteo Gilebbi, Wisconsin**  Delete
Italian Language is important! It opens widely to European history and culture
- # 119: Jan 24, 2009, **Cosetta Seno Reed, Colorado**  Delete
- # 118: Jan 24, 2009, **Valerie Saugera, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 117: Jan 24, 2009, **Suzanne Ondrus, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 116: Jan 24, 2009, **Mel Mel Gaetz, Illinois**  Delete
To maintain the competitiveness of our next generation, we must stress the importance of learn a second language
- # 115: Jan 24, 2009, **Marcelo Pelliccioni, Connecticut**  Delete
The teaching of foreign language should be required because it helps 1) students develop their cognitive, social abilities 2) students are able to function and compete in a multicultural context (be it the USA and/or the world) 3) students have a more comprehensive view of life as they learn a language hand in hand with culture.
- # 114: Jan 24, 2009, **Miguel Gomes, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 113: Jan 24, 2009, **Julio Morales, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning a foreign language teaches students to think differently. It expands the mind. It often helps in understanding English grammar. Furthermore, it prepares students to better understand the rest of the world's population since it is difficult to separate language from culture and diversity. In today's world that is more important than ever.
- # 112: Jan 24, 2009, **Sebastian Wogenstein, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 111: Jan 23, 2009, **Peter Auster, Connecticut**  Delete
My grades from high school foreign language classes were the worst on my academic record (C's versus A's and B's for other subjects). However, such classes opened the door to other cultures and provided a foundation for communicating to others in the many countries I have visited throughout my professional career as a scientist. There should be no trade-off in languages versus science and math classes. I did both and am thankful for how each subject area has enriched my life.
- # 110: Jan 23, 2009, **Elaine Newgarden, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 109: Jan 24, 2009, **Phil Rosenberg, Connecticut**  Delete
Eliminating the expectation that high school students will be exposed to at least one foreign language not only lessens the hope for better cultural understanding, it also impoverishes young minds. Study after study has shown that acquiring foreign languages early improves command of English, facilitates later education, and increases mental flexibility. Some even suggest that it develops neural pathways that would otherwise remain stunted. Please don't be so shortsighted as to rob Connecticut's youth of the opportunity to grow into the smartest people they can be for reasons of economic expediency. It seems clear that we will be needing smart adults in the years ahead.
- # 107: Jan 24, 2009, **Rosanne Pelletier, Connecticut**  Delete
Language learning is enormously beneficial to both students themselves, as well as to our society in this globalized world. US schools clearly need to increase, not eliminate the language requirement.

106: Jan 24, 2009, Andrew Pergiovanni, Connecticut Delete

105: Jan 23, 2009, Lily Lung, Massachusetts Delete

104: Jan 23, 2009, Kemen Zabala, Connecticut Delete
Languages are an Integral part of communication between human beings on this planet. Not allowing languages in our high schools is a grave disservice to our students. It is putting them at a monumental disadvantage in the competitive world we live in, and this is just perpetuating the United States' image as an elitist, ignorant country. With the current issues that this country faces, the only way to solve them is to enrich our youth with a powerful education so that they can become powerful future leaders. This is extremely upsetting news.

103: Jan 23, 2009, Jaya Vijayasekar, Connecticut Delete
A foreign language requirement at the high school level is critical to ensure that our students are equipped to face the challenges of the 21st century. We cannot afford to have them leave high school with this deficit. It is an essential curriculum through which students become international minded and can view the world through other lenses. Not only will this increase global understanding, but also give them an academic edge.

102: Jan 23, 2009, Milton F Franco, Connecticut Delete
The high school system in the United States is lagging behind ALL other educational systems in the industrialized world and eliminating the foreign language high school requirement will accentuate our country's failure to move with modern times. If the idea behind eliminating this requirement is to save money this measure will hurt us more in the long run. Our country is in the midst of great challenges not seen in generations and decisions that affect the quality of education are the opposite of what our country needs. I hope that the CT Assembly will consider the future ramifications that this action will cause to the future of our economy. Finally, please understand that a work force that is well prepared to face global realities is a work force that can lead us out of these hard economic times that we are facing. Let's keep in mind that as we, the United States, are cutting funding for foreign languages other countries that are our main rivals in the world economy like China, India and Europe are investing in preparing their work force to compete with us. Why are we going the opposite direction? Also, another benefit of learning a foreign language is understanding other cultures. In a globalized world isolation and unpreparedness is the wrong choice. We should be increasing our language requirements not eliminating them.

101: Jan 23, 2009, Raphael Bouchard, Connecticut Delete
It's beneficial to teach a foreign language in high school because the older one gets the harder it is to learn. Also is Connecticut that self centers where they don't want to recognize other languages.

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

signature
goal: 1,000

Target: The Connecticut General Assembly

Sponsored by: The Connecticut Council of Language Teachers

Help our Connecticut State Representatives understand the Importance of a foreign language high school graduation requirement for all of Connecticut's children. A graduation requirement is vital for our state's economy and our children's future! Please sign our petition and include your personal story.

768
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We signed the "Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement" petition!

- # 100: Jan 23, 2009, **Santiago Sanchez, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 99: Jan 23, 2009, **Ana Maria DiazMarcos, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Language education is a must. Students who speak another language will have better career opportunities and also a deeper understanding of our global world.
- # 98: Jan 23, 2009, **Mleke Bernaards, Belgium** [Delete](#)
- # 97: Jan 23, 2009, **Kristi Newgarden, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Learning a second (or third or fourth) language is good for the brain. Learning a foreign language opens us to another world view and increases our sense of being part of a diverse humanity. Knowledge of a foreign language is increasingly important in many careers and fields. Learning a foreign language in high school has had a major impact on my future academic and career choices.
- # 96: Jan 23, 2009, **Octavian Paul Draja, Romania** [Delete](#)
- # 95: Jan 23, 2009, **Karen Krotzer, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
4 years of Spanish
- # 94: Jan 23, 2009, **Gustavo Nanclares, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 93: Jan 24, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 92: Jan 23, 2009, **Marine BODINAUD, Connecticut** [Delete](#)

- # 91: Jan 23, 2009, **Jennifer Terni, Connecticut**  Delete
Globalization, in a word. Plus kids with a second language have a huge advantage in sciences and in all forms of abstract thinking; it encourages new thought patterns and processes, encourages students to pay attention to detail, vastly increases a student's vocabulary, conceptual understanding, and conceptual imagination, and is the means through which most American students learn basic grammar (since it is not taught properly in English). Just as important, learning another language is the gateway to understanding cultural difference. I think sciences are important, but second language learning helps students with both English and math. If anything, these programs need to be more ambitious, not less.
- # 90: Jan 23, 2009, **Bambi Mroz, Connecticut**  Delete
The U.S. is already behind most highly developed nations in terms of our ability to communicate in languages other than English. Removing foreign language programs from our public schools only worsens the problem. And, if we want our young people to be competitive globally (even in math and science which seem to be superseding humanities subjects) they need to be able to communicate. All of this is, of course, in addition to the demonstrated intellectual, social, and cultural functions of language learning. If anything, we should be increasing our language requirements, not eliminating them!
- # 89: Jan 23, 2009, **Catina Caban-owen, Connecticut**  Delete
It is vital that Americans keep up with the global movement and interactions with people. Continuing to believe that others will learn English to communicate with us is an unrealistic, insular attitude which puts our students and citizens at a disadvantage. A recent business visitor from Canada to our town knew 7 languages! Our Taxi driver in Spain knew 5 languages...!!! We need to wake up and understand that our English only policy limits us and is actually a matter of national security. Our students must understand we are the minority in the world and we must be able to communicate with others for our own economic, social and political needs. Catina Caban-Owen
- # 88: Jan 23, 2009, **Mary Smith, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 87: Jan 23, 2009, **Maryanne Boscarino, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign language learning develops critical speaking, writing, and listening skills as well as cultural sensitivity. Now more than ever we need to empower our students with the skills to succeed and compete in the global economy of the 21st century!
- # 86: Jan 23, 2009, **Ofelia G. Bolduc, Connecticut**  Delete
We live in a global, interconnected world where respect and knowledge of other cultures and languages is crucial to our harmonious existence! We must continue placing World Languages as an integral part of our academic curriculum.
- # 85: Jan 23, 2009, **Ashley Kneldel, Connecticut**  Delete
Selective colleges are looking for students with foreign language credits. Foreign language skills are essential for many non-university bound students as well.
- # 84: Jan 23, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
We live in a global society, we must prepare our children to succeed in it.
- # 83: Jan 23, 2009, **Bradley Wright, California**  Delete
It's fundamental to education
- # 82: Jan 23, 2009, **Kathy Yurko, Connecticut**  Delete
Everyone needs to be aware that we "live" in a global society and not "are" the global society. Up and coming students going into the workforce need to be competitive with other nations where students speak 2, 3 or 4 languages fluently. No more can we have the attitude "well everyone should just speak English".
- # 81: Jan 23, 2009, **Connie Hagno Brokowski, Connecticut**  Delete
As a foreign language teacher and daughter of immigrant parents, I have always felt that my heritage has been a unique gift, and that my first language, Italian, is a special part of me. We should continue to offer to all students, especially to those who know only English, an open door to the world beyond the U.S. In this very global and interconnected world, especially in these economic times and where peace must be achieved, we open doors for our children through instruction and exposure to all people of the planet. We owe our children every chance for prosperity and peace through understanding and education. We need to be with the rest of world who maintains the importance of language learning.
- # 80: Jan 23, 2009, **Kathleen McCure, Connecticut**  Delete
Students should have an understanding of a second language and learn that country's culture. In doing so, students will become more worldly at a younger age and before they enter college.
- # 79: Jan 23, 2009, **Toni Sokoloski, Massachusetts**  Delete
- # 78: Jan 23, 2009, **Laurel Hoskins, Connecticut**  Delete
The ability to learn to communicate in a language other than your own is crucial in understanding other cultures' humanity on a personal level. Knowledge of a foreign language is an important tool for each one of us to become a citizen of the world.
- # 77: Jan 23, 2009, **Irene Gifford, Connecticut**  Delete
In a diverse world, I think it is essential for Americans to have some working knowledge of other languages. This will not only help them communicate with others and be able to travel, it will also give them more understanding of those living in the United States from foreign cultures.
- # 76: Jan 23, 2009, **LJ Conlon, Connecticut**  Delete

- Jan 23, 2009, **L Middlemas, New York** 
- # 74: Jan 23, 2009, **David Hand, Connecticut** 
It's a big world. Nobody can afford to speak only one language.
- # 73: Jan 23, 2009, **Mario C. Ramos, Connecticut** 
- # 72: Jan 23, 2009, **Rosa Helena Chinchilla, Connecticut** 
Language Education is essential for our students. The earlier a language is learned the greater the ability of retention and development of language. Without H.S. language, Middle School and Elementary programs would end. Languages open up barriers and allow children and adults to understand others in ways that are very important to the future of our country and our world.
- # 71: Jan 23, 2009, **Nick Comparone, Connecticut** 
- # 70: Jan 23, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
- # 69: Jan 23, 2009, **Bonnie Hoskins, Connecticut** 
I was fortunate to learn Spanish and Portuguese as a child because my parents lived abroad. Knowing more languages has been very important for my professional success and had added immeasurably to my personal satisfaction and happiness. I want this critical benefit for every child in CT. We must educate global citizens! Languages must be taught at every level and especially high school.
- # 68: Jan 23, 2009, **Jeremy Conlon, Connecticut** 
- # 67: Jan 23, 2009, **Murphy Sewall, Connecticut** 
The future will be even more global than the present. I have already seen in both my children's professional careers instances of unanticipated travel to Latin America where the Spanish that they learned in middle school and particularly high school turned out to be a valuable asset.
- # 66: Jan 23, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
- # 65: Jan 23, 2009, **Jocelyn Tamborello-Noble, Connecticut** 
- # 64: Jan 23, 2009, **Lynelle Kucharski, Connecticut** 
It is only fair that we challenge our students with the best educational opportunities for a successful future. A foreign language requirement guarantees that each individual will have the communication skills necessary to compete in our global marketplace and prevents us from becoming monolingual thinkers in a multilingual world.
- # 63: Jan 23, 2009, **Pam Boland, Georgia** 
- # 62: Jan 22, 2009, **Amanda Schifferdecker, Connecticut** 
- # 61: Jan 22, 2009, **Andrea Berberick, Connecticut** 
- # 60: Jan 22, 2009, **Patricia Parlette, Connecticut** 
Learning a second (or third or fourth) language and understanding other cultures is the path toward peace.
- # 59: Jan 22, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut** 
- # 58: Jan 22, 2009, **Kristen Passero, Connecticut** 
- # 57: Jan 22, 2009, **Alexandra Cavanagh, Connecticut** 
Foreign languages are really fun and an important part of learning. It also helps culturalize students to the world.
- # 56: Jan 22, 2009, **Antoinette Kisiuk, Connecticut** 
In the global world in which we live, it is extremely important to communicate and understand other cultures in order to be successful.
- # 55: Jan 22, 2009, **Lauren Awerman, Connecticut** 
In a global economy, it is important for students to learn how to think and act globally. Learning a foreign language will help students communicate with and understand people of different cultures located around the world. Students who know a foreign language can learn to appreciate different cultures and exchange ideas and opinions in multiple languages.
- # 54:

Jan 22, 2009, **Marta Krzemien, Connecticut** 

I am a speaker of a different language than English, I moved to USA 10 years ago and even though I accepted the reality and demands of my life in a foreign country I believe that no one should forget their roots. Language learning strengthens the knowledge of many disciplines and widens your horizons thus helping you understand other cultures. As a language teacher I can truly say that I love what I am doing every day - it would be such a shame to lose languages from schools. We need them!

53: Jan 22, 2009, **Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Connecticut** 

Learning a foreign language as early as possible in life gives the child an incredible amount of cognitive and intellectual resources as well as other professional advantages. The world is a small place now and dialogue between cultures and countries is fundamental and is going to be crucial to our survival.

52: Jan 22, 2009, **Cecile Perraud, Connecticut** 

During these times, when we need to prepare the students for a global economy, foreign language should be a requirement K through 12! All the European countries have it, so do China and Singapore, 2 countries who are ahead of the USA in educating their young...

51: Jan 22, 2009, **Thomas Deans, Connecticut** 

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Reinstate the FL High School Graduation Requirement

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- # 50: Jan 22, 2009, **Donald Baxter, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
For personal growth, for jobs of the future, and in order to be informed voters, Americans need to engage with foreign countries in the languages of those countries.
- # 49: Jan 22, 2009, **Lisa Zima, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 48: Jan 22, 2009, **Maria Elena Juan, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Foreign Language Instruction is important to understand the language and culture of other people with whom we interact specially in the United States.
- # 47: Jan 22, 2009, **Scott Bonito, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 46: Jan 22, 2009, **Kathleen Archibald, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
In the world today, understanding people of other cultures is important for the morale of the country. Tolerance and appreciation are 2 different things!
- # 45: Jan 22, 2009, **Catherine Ross, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
- # 44: Jan 22, 2009, **Marilyn Fairfield, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
It is critical for our young people to study and speak more than one language. I encourage the CT State Representatives to keep the foreign language graduation requirement intact. It is VITAL for our children's future. We are a multi cultural society living in a world that demands we work and live beyond our borders! Please keep the requirement! A very concerned retired social studies teacher.
- # 43: Jan 22, 2009, **S s Bansal, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Learning a foreign language and travelling/living abroad should ideally be a requirement for all high school and college diplomas. Other countries that are way ahead of us educationally put a high premium on what they refer to as "Global Literacy". Eliminating the language requirement in our schools would be a huge step backward. This sounds like an idea George W. would cook up.
- # 42: Jan 22, 2009, **Matthew Gworek, Connecticut** [Delete](#)
Our students need a fuller and more cultural world view to be able to compete in and understand the quickly shrinking and completely global world that we live in.

- # 41: Jan 22, 2009, **Victoria Straub, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 40: Jan 22, 2009, **Amanda Robu-Price, Connecticut**  Delete
Our students must be global citizens in order to succeed in our world which is changing and advancing every moment.
- # 39: Jan 22, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
To help round out the education of students headed for college and adulthood.
- # 38: Jan 22, 2009, **Jean Despoteris, Connecticut**  Delete
In this global economy, foreign language study should be a requirement for graduation.
- # 37: Jan 22, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 36: Jan 22, 2009, **Amy Nocton, Connecticut**  Delete
I feel strongly that learning another language is crucial to enhancing inter-cultural understanding and, although it sounds trite, to fostering improved global relationships. I am not so naive as to believe that the ability to communicate in other languages alone is the key to ending all conflict, but I do think that by learning another language one strengthens their understanding of their own language and culture while adding increased awareness of other people and the nuances within their cultures. Learning another language hardwires the brain in new ways, teaches skills that can be applied to learning other fields and generally enriches one's perspective of the world. Why shouldn't people study another language?!
- # 35: Jan 22, 2009, **Collignon-courtin Ethel, Connecticut**  Delete
One of the reasons why my husband and I decided to come to live in US is the possibility for our two children to know a second language and culture.
- # 34: Jan 22, 2009, **Vianca Diaz, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 33: Jan 22, 2009, **Christopher Pratt, Connecticut**  Delete
World languages help students to gain perspective on the world around them and prepare them for the future. Learning another language not only entails learning grammar and vocabulary, but also learning about another culture, another history, and another way of thinking. This allows our students to think in different ways, and look at issues from multiple stances and multiple understandings.
- # 32: Jan 22, 2009, **Noah Parker, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 31: Jan 22, 2009, **Rajeev Bansal, Connecticut**  Delete
Learning a second language broadens one's cultural perspective and also teaches one more about the structure and grammar of one's own language.
- # 30: Jan 22, 2009, **Holly Price, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 29: Jan 22, 2009, **Kaitlyn Profeta, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 28: Jan 22, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
The educational experience of learning the culture and language of another country has proven invaluable to me, both in my professional life, and in my personal life. It provided the tools to appreciate the way other people think, and their opinions.
- # 27: Jan 22, 2009, **Eduardo Lage-Otero, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 26: Jan 22, 2009, **Brian A. Boecherer, Connecticut**  Delete
High Schools without a Foreign Language requirement open the possibility for losing foreign languages in the high schools altogether, as moneys are reshuffled to meet unfunded educational mandates of core courses and state aptitude tests. A student without the requisite years of foreign language has a reduced ability to successfully apply to college (most have language requirements) and a reduced chance to compete in the global market.
- # 25: Jan 22, 2009, **J. Peter Gogarten, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 24: Jan 22, 2009, **Deborah Bender, Connecticut**  Delete
In our society, it is a shame to not see the world scene as it is. We live in a world where it is important to communicate and understand the people and the cultures that we work and associate with. Successful communication, coupled with cultural understanding can make or break the moment...whether it be political, economical, or personal. We cannot continue to keep our heads in the sand!!! As Obama recently said...we need to do what we can at whatever level we are on...we all need to do our part...we are all responsible.
- # 23: Jan 22, 2009, **Anonymous, New York**  Delete
- # 22: Jan 22, 2009, **Allison Hennessey, Connecticut**  Delete

- # 21: Jan 22, 2009, **Sara Johnson, Connecticut**  Delete
Nearly every country in the world has more global linguistic awareness than our young citizens do. With a new president in office who will truly build bridges with other nations, we need young people who are ready to cross those bridges.
- # 20: Jan 22, 2009, **Stephen Pingree, Connecticut**  Delete
Studying a world language has many important benefits including a better knowledge of one's own language, a knowledge and appreciation of other peoples' cultures and ways of thinking through their language. This country cannot afford to be monolingual, considering the growth of non-English speakers in the country, as well as its role in the global economy.
- # 19: Jan 22, 2009, **Timothy Alstrum, Connecticut**  Delete
The ignorance about the world because of the tradition of monolingualism in our state and nation prevents us from participating in the world economic community to the extent that we could. This prevents dollars from returning to our state economy at a time when we need them and costs us potential jobs. The requirement for language study in both elementary and secondary schools is essential!
- # 18: Jan 22, 2009, **Arthur Gallnat, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 17: Jan 22, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 16: Jan 22, 2009, **Nancy Silander, Connecticut**  Delete
Without a language requirement, our students will not be successfully prepared to become U. S. or world citizens. The new president's immediate family reflects what is true today in the U.S. - we are a multicultural mix, and students need not only the language but also the cultural component that goes with studying a language. Few students know with a certainty what language or culture they will need in their work or personal life; understanding what is involved in learning a language and what makes cultures unique will give them the ability to better adapt to a quickly changing world.
- # 15: Jan 22, 2009, **Abigail Straub, Connecticut**  Delete
It is important to me because I am going to be a future foreign language teacher. I think that foreign language should be a requirement for many reasons. Foreign languages allow for our citizens to communicate with other diverse citizens who have many different backgrounds. It enhances our culture. It allows us to compete in an international market. It has also been proven to enhance test scores on both ACT and SAT.
- # 14: Jan 22, 2009, **Augusta Gonzalez, Connecticut**  Delete
As a political entity that guides and prepares its citizens for the global communication necessary to understand, appreciate and exchange ideas and trade with those outside of the "English-speaking world", Connecticut must enforce its commitment to teaching foreign languages by requiring at least two years of a foreign language in every high school.
- # 13: Jan 22, 2009, **Lawrence Covino, Connecticut**  Delete
Because we live in a global society and must be able to communicate with others across the globe.
- # 12: Jan 22, 2009, **Anonymous, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign languages are of vital importance in a globalized economy. They are the portal into other cultures and ways of thinking/perceiving the world. We cannot continue to put ourselves at disadvantage by perpetuating a "neo-imperialist" mindset that demands that others meet us on our own terms.
- # 11: Jan 22, 2009, **Steve Klein, Canada**  Delete
- # 10: Jan 21, 2009, **Kate Krotzer, Connecticut**  Delete
- # 9: Jan 21, 2009, **Mary Connelly Pereira, Connecticut**  Delete
Research shows that bilingual children use more of their brain than monolingual children. Knowing another world language is also a means to help bring about peace and understanding between and among cultures.
- # 7: Jan 21, 2009, **Dorothy Ravlele, Connecticut**  Delete
It is crucial that all our students, not just the elite, be given the opportunity to study a second language. The skills learned in WL classrooms are transferred to all other areas of study. The cultural understandings that come from learning a second language will help our students in the world of work. A workforce that is proficient in more than one language can help Connecticut attract and keep businesses from abroad.
- # 6: Jan 21, 2009, **Anke Finger, Connecticut**  Delete
Our children depend on us to give them opportunities to learn, to grow, and to engage with the world knowledgeably and competently. They are the ones who will point to us if they are not successful and competitive in the market place, if they cannot fully understand and even fear what the world has to offer. Let's not disappoint them or limit their curiosity. Let's make the experience of languages and cultures possible for them, let's give them new opportunities, let's give them choices!
- # 5: Jan 21, 2009, **Nicole McClure, Connecticut**  Delete
Foreign language learning is essential in helping students develop critical thinking skills and more importantly, a greater awareness of the world around them.
- # 4: Jan 21, 2009, **Timothy Reagan, Connecticut**  Delete

Jan 21, 2009, **Norma Bouchard, Connecticut**  [Delete](#)

2: Jan 21, 2009, **Nina Garrett, Connecticut**  [Delete](#)
Competence in a foreign language is crucial to everyone who cares to be an active engaged citizen in today's world. It doesn't even matter very much which language -- the important thing is to understand what it means to think outside one's own language and culture, so as to be prepared to learn any further language as needed.

1: Jan 21, 2009, **Barbara Lindsey, Connecticut**  [Delete](#)
My son works for an international company in Connecticut. He was flown out at company expense to interview for a position that involved work in Asia. He got this interview because he listed his high school and college level German studies. They recognized that he knew how to learn languages and possessed valuable intercultural skills.

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