

**Friis, John**

---

**From:** Amanda Robustelli-Price [amandarobustelli@ci.bristol.ct.us]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 22, 2009 12:49 PM  
**To:** Friis, John  
**Cc:** jvijayasekar@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** World Language H.S. Graduation Requirement

Dear members of the Education Committee,

My name is Amanda Robustelli-Price and I am a Regional Director in the Connecticut Council of Language Teachers [CT COLT]. I am currently in my seventh year of teaching French at Bristol Central High School.

It has come to my attention that a bill has been proposed to require students to take a language in high school in order to graduate. **This law would be a necessary and important addition to the current Connecticut graduation requirements.**

Our world is becoming increasingly smaller because of technology. (Think of *The World is Flat* by Thomas Friedman). Now more than ever, it is critical for student success after high school that they achieve certain levels of linguistic and cultural proficiency. Twenty-first century skills require that students have the ability to interact with people from around the world. World language teachers strive to prepare students for this real-world communication through in-depth tasks that prepare students to communicate with people from different cultures and communities, and make connections and comparisons.

Including world language courses as a high school requirement sends the crucial message that we as a state understand what students need in order to be successful after high school. Students need to have the skills that are learned in world language courses.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you for your time.

Amanda Robustelli-Price  
French Teacher  
Bristol Central High School  
480 Wolcott Street  
P.O. Box 0700  
Bristol, CT 06011-0700  
860-584-7735 ext. 327