

New Haven Public Schools



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Dear Members of the Education Committee;

I write to you today as the Supervisor of World Languages for the New Haven Public Schools and as a strong supporter of a balanced and complete education for the children of Connecticut - an education that demands the inclusion of a world language requirement.

With a growing globalized economy, knowledge of a foreign language is becoming necessary for an increasing number of careers. It is imperative that we provide foreign language education for our students who will live and work in a world where multilingual societies have a competitive advantage over monolingual societies. Knowledge of a second language will enhance job mobility and advancement for our students when they join the workforce.

Research has demonstrated that learning a foreign language develops thinking skills and cognitive processing abilities. Critical thinking, creativity, memory and listening all improve through the study of a foreign language. High school foreign language study enhances academic preparation for college and improves overall student performance in school. A correlation has been demonstrated between the study of a foreign language in high school and higher SAT and ACT scores.

I strongly urge the passage of bill 945. It is our responsibility to ensure that our children receive the foreign language study they need to live and work in today's, and tomorrow's, world.

Sincerely yours,

Karen de Fur

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New Haven Public Schools