

Friis, John

From: Gonzalez, Augusta [GONZALEZA@glastonburyus.org]
Sent: Saturday, March 07, 2009 8:45 PM
To: Friis, John
Subject: to support Bill 945 ans not 944

Dear Mr. Friis:

I am a veteran world language teacher (35 years teaching from preschool to University). I have also taught in Spain for over 5 years. In Europe, students are required to learn English and in many cases a third language. The English requirement begins in grade 3 or 4 and they must pass a fluency test before entering the University. Obviously in Europe, knowing several languages is very useful since many different languages cohabitate in Europe. Notwithstanding the predominance of English in the global marketplace and the far reaching borders of the United States, we still need to learn foreign languages. Learning a second World Language also teaches the culture of that country and an acceptance of different customs, foods and values. Through languages we are teaching our students to be better citizens of the world by showing acceptance and appreciation of different cultures. The learning of a foreign language also sharpens skills which then are reflected in the student's native language: improved reading comprehension, improved vocabulary, improved spelling to name a few.

I strongly urge you to vote no on Bill 944 which does not require language study in high school and instead vote for Bill 945 which does require two years of high school world language.

Thank you very much for your consideration to this matter,

Augusta C. Gonzalez,
Spanish teacher
Glastonbury Public Schools