

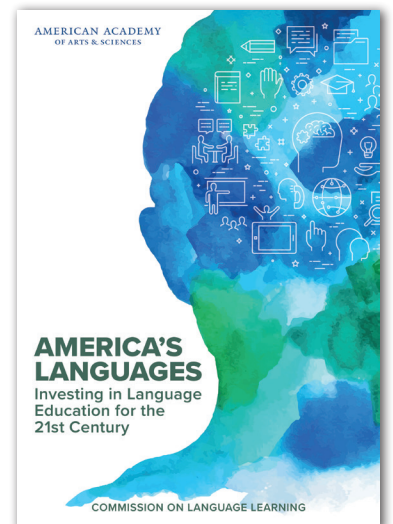
# BRIDGING AMERICA'S LANGUAGE GAP

## A Call to Action

Leaders in American business, government, and education support a national effort to strengthen language education so that individual Americans can more effectively participate in a global society, and the nation as a whole can prosper in a global economy. To join the effort, contact John Tessitore at [jtessitore@amacad.org](mailto:jtessitore@amacad.org).

### Why is *language education* critical to America?

Language is the key to cultural understanding. While proficiency in English is essential in many facets of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, at home and abroad, knowledge of English alone is insufficient to meet the nation's needs in a global society—as noted in *America's Languages: Investing in Language Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, a report of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. American industry participates in more foreign markets than ever before and the nation is engaged, diplomatically or militarily, in every corner of the globe. Challenges in scientific research and technological innovation all require greater international collaboration. And we have a social obligation, established in law, to offer critical social services in languages other than English.



As the Academy report states, “[B]y several measures, the United States has neglected languages in its educational curricula, its international strategies, and its domestic policies.” This oversight has had “adverse and often unforeseen consequences at home and abroad—in business and diplomacy, in civic life, and in the exchange of ideas.” A more forward-thinking strategy for meeting future needs would advance policies and investments that promote language education for all Americans.

We have a responsibility to ourselves and to future generations—as parents, educators, policy-makers, and leaders in business and government—to support language learning in the United States to achieve the following results:

- **Provide Access to Languages for all Age Groups** and every level of the education continuum, from early childhood through retirement;
- **Prepare More Language Teachers**, without whom we cannot advance language education;
- **Promote Public-Private Partnerships** in language education to amplify the work begun in our schools;
- **Support Heritage and Indigenous Language** communities in their traditions and birthrights, and as an important and distinctive national resource; and
- **Encourage International Learning Experiences** for students, teachers, and workers through educational and professional programs, as a critical aspect of advanced language learning.

## BRIDGING AMERICA'S LANGUAGE GAP

We, the signatories, attest that the public and private sectors require greater capacity in languages in addition to English, and we urge greater support for languages in order to maintain and enhance American global leadership. We stand ready to do our part.

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*CEO, American Association  
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Office of the Secretary of Defense*

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## ● ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS

Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities  
American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
American Council of Learned Societies  
American Council on Education  
American Historical Association  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association for Psychological Science  
The College Board  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Linguistics Society of America  
Modern Language Association  
National Communication Association  
National Humanities Alliance  
The Phi Beta Kappa Society

## ● BUSINESSES

Avant Assessment  
Certified Languages International  
Global Institute for Language and Literacy Development  
LanguageLine Solutions  
Language Magazine  
Localization Institute  
LocWorld  
Medtronic  
Multilingual  
Participate  
Rosetta Stone  
Velázquez Press

## ● COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Agnes Scott College  
Bennington College  
Boston University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Caldwell University  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida  
Columbus State University, Columbus, GA, Department of Modern and Classical Languages  
Dominican University (IL)  
Indiana University  
Kent State University Institute for Applied Linguistics  
Middlebury College  
Newbury College  
North Carolina State University  
Ohio Dominican University  
Simpson College  
Stillman College  
St. Norbert College  
St. Thomas University  
Texas Lutheran University  
University of Colorado Boulder  
University of Florida  
University of Kansas  
University of Maryland, College Park  
University of Oregon  
Whittier College

## ● CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

UnidosUS  
League of Latin American Citizens Florida

## ● INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asia Society  
Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training  
Galapagos Conservancy  
International Career Advancement Program Alumni Association  
International Mission of Mercy USA  
International Women's Entrepreneurial Challenge  
National Peace Corps Association  
Qatar Foundation International (QFI)  
Senior Seminar Alumni Association

## ● LANGUAGE EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS

7000 Languages  
African Language Teachers Association  
Alabama World Language Association  
Alliance for International Exchange  
American Association of Teachers of French  
American Association of Teachers of German  
American Association of Teachers of Japanese  
American Association of Teachers of Korean  
American Association of Teachers of Italian  
American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages  
American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese  
American Classical League  
American Council of Teachers of Russian  
American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
American Councils for International Education  
Arabic Honor Society  
Arizona Language Association  
Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents  
California Association for Bilingual Education  
California Language Teachers Association  
Californians Together  
Campagna Center  
Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools  
Coalition for International Educational Exchange  
Colorado Congress of Foreign Language Teachers  
Concordia Language Villages  
Connecticut Council of Language Teachers  
The Council of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages  
DC Immersion  
DUALLANGUAGESCHOOLS.ORG  
Dual Language Education of New Mexico  
Florida Foreign Language Association  
Florida Foreign Language Managers of Education  
Foreign Language Association of Georgia  
Foreign Language Association of Maine  
Foreign Language Association of Missouri  
Foreign Language Association of North Carolina  
Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey  
Foreign Language Association of Virginia  
Hawaii Association of Language Teachers  
IES Abroad  
Illinois Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages  
Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association  
Institute of International Education  
International Association of Teachers of Czech  
Iowa World Language Association  
Joint National Committee for Languages  
Kentucky World Language Association  
Massachusetts Association for Bilingual Education  
Massachusetts Foreign Language Association  
Michigan World Language Association  
Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures  
Mississippi Foreign Language Association  
Montana Association of Language Teachers

National Association of Bilingual Educators  
National Association of District Supervisors of Foreign Languages  
National Committee for Latin and Greek  
National Council for Languages and International Studies  
National Council of Less-Commonly Taught Languages  
National Council of State Supervisors for Languages  
National Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations  
National Foreign Language Center  
National Heritage Language Resource Center  
New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers  
North American Association of Teachers of Polish  
Ohio Foreign Language Association  
Oklahoma Foreign Language Teachers Association  
Pacific Northwest Council on Foreign Languages  
Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association  
Professional Language Association Nevada  
Rhode Island Foreign Language Association  
SEALOFBILITERACY.ORG  
Servicio Internacional de Evaluación de la Lengua Española  
South Dakota World Language Association  
Southern Conference of Foreign Language Teachers Association  
Southern Conference on Language Teaching  
Southwest Conference on Language Teaching  
TESOL International Association  
Texas Foreign Language Association  
Wisconsin Association for Language Teachers  
Wyoming Foreign Language Teachers Association

## ● PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Diplomacy  
Association of Black American Ambassadors  
Association of Language Companies  
American Translators Association  
Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters  
Globalization and Localization Association  
Network of Business Language Educators (NOBLE)

## ● SCHOOL SYSTEMS

Denver Public Schools  
District of Columbia Public Schools  
Thompson School District, Loveland, Colorado

## ● STATE HUMANITIES COUNCILS

Federation of State Humanities Councils  
California Humanities  
Humanities North Dakota  
Illinois Humanities  
Missouri Humanities Council  
New Jersey Council for the Humanities  
Vermont Humanities Council

To learn more about this project, visit [www.amacad.org/language](http://www.amacad.org/language) or contact [jtessitore@amacad.org](mailto:jtessitore@amacad.org).