
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Bilingual? The Feds Want YOU

Many federal agencies are [lacking workers with foreign-language skills](#), and those workers with linguistic talents are suddenly finding themselves in demand, *Government Executive* reports. Director of the [Government Accountability Office](#)'s homeland security and justice division David Maurer told a Senate subcommittee in July the [Defense Department](#), the [Department of Homeland Security](#) and the State Department are all behind the curve when it comes to having workers with language skills. DHS, DoD and the State Department are all offering internships and language training to lessen the language gap. And increasingly, departments are looking for more qualified candidates for job openings. Often, proficiency in another language earns a job seeker extra points.

Fourth-graders connect with high school Spanish class

Thanks to video conferencing equipment, fourth-grade honors students from Mohawk Intermediate School and Blackhawk Intermediate Center in Park Forest are participating in a Rich South High School introduction to Spanish class without leaving Mohawk School. The fourth-graders participate in the daily high school-level class via a 42-inch screen monitor that enables them to interact with the high school teacher and her class. Once the monitor was turned on, the fourth-grade students proclaimed "hola" in unison to the high school class. They then followed the instructions of Rich South High School teacher Juanita Southern to count to 30 in Spanish with the high schoolers and perform other tasks, such as converting the numerals into their Spanish word equivalent.

Schools Examine Elementary Foreign Language Program

The Loudoun County Public Schools Curriculum and Instruction Committee met with teachers from the Foreign Language in Elementary School and Spanish at the Middle School programs to hear about their progress before the upcoming budget season. Peter Hughes, director of curriculum and instruction for the school system, opened the meeting with a review of the history of the program, which is now in its ninth year. He noted that the program had been a long-standing goal of the School Board that took several years to implement. The program began in 2001 in only the kindergarten and first-grade classes of 10 elementary schools, and since that time has expanded to every first through fifth grade class at 44 elementary schools and 11 middle schools. Wyhs said those communication skills will be vital to students graduating in the class of 2020, who just began the FLES program this year, as they will be entering a global community in which the ability to speak at least two languages will be vital employment skills.

Defense Language Institute Rocks the Language of Giving

The Department of Defense premier language training facility—The Presidio of Monterey Defense Language Institute in California—teaches 24 languages and several dialects. Recently they added the language of giving with a practical lesson about the power of blood. In mid-September the Armed Services Blood Bank Center—Pacific Northwest (ASBBC-PNW) made its annual summer visit to the Defense Language Institute to conduct a blood drive in memory of those that lost their lives on Sept. 11, and in memory of the heroes that died to save them. Although this was the first introduction to the Armed Services Blood Program for some at the Defense Language Institute, all those who participated were glad to donate to the military blood program.

LEAP program expands with selection board

The Air Force Language and Culture Center added 260 participants from more than 400 active-duty officer and cadet applicants to the Language Enabled Airman Program during its selection board in September, officials in Washington, D.C., said Oct. 15. The Air Force program has grown since its first board, when 192 U.S. Air Force Academy and ROTC cadets were selected to be among the first LEAP participants, officials said.

Vietnam's ambitious plan to become an IT power

The Prime Minister has approved the information technology (IT) development plan, under which IT will see the annual growth rate 2-3 times higher than the GDP growth rate, with the industry making up 10 percent of GDP of Vietnam. It is expected that by 2020, Vietnam will have one million people working in the IT industry. 80 percent of students graduating in subjects related to IT will have the professional knowledge and foreign language skills good enough to join the international labour market. From now to 2015, about 30 percent of students are estimated have such skills.

Learning Korean Language a Growing Trend in Southeast Asia

An increasing number of Vietnamese are showing interest in learning and improving their Korean language skills after coming into contact with a variety of Korean dramas, music and the culture itself. At one university in Vietnam nearly 30,000 people packed hallways and classrooms to take a Korean language proficiency exam. The number of people taking the test across the Southeast Asian country this year is five times greater than in 2006.

Developing Online Lessons

In Phase I of the Critical Languages Project, CSILC worked with the Department of Defense, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language School at the Presidio of Monterey, California, in order to develop more than 150 Arabic language lessons. The project had the dual purpose of improving student language proficiency *and* teaching the student valuable lessons about the history, culture, politics, economy and religion of the Middle East.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Civilian Language Education in America: How the Air Force and Academia Can Thrive Together

The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) of 2006 first proposed that Department of Defense (DOD) language planners focus on preaccession language education instead of spending time and treasure to teach foreign languages to recruits and second-termers, a proposal echoed in the QDR of 2010.¹ Since "preaccession language education" almost always connotes formal college and university coursework, it appears that the last two QDRs seek to strengthen the linguistic skills of the officer corps. However, a lack of both direction for and understanding of what this nation's language education system can provide continues to hamstring efforts to expand preaccession language training.

Value of a foreign language major?

A student pours over college profiles searching for the school with the "perfect" program. As a Spanish major, he heard good things about the faculty. The student recalls the speaker at his Information Session boasting about SUNY Albany's extensive foreign language department. The presenter worked hard to let all newcomers know that the world was indeed "within reach" with the number of study abroad and language programs they offered. "Looking back, I cannot believe that the pride that this university once had for their foreign languages has diminished so quickly."

Bringing Language to Life at Hebrew Day School

The Hebrew Day School (HDS) is unique among Ann Arbor's elementary schools for providing a second language immersion program. As the name implies, this method of teaching immerses students in the second language for half the school day. Head of School, Dina Shtull explains, "Hebrew language is

integrated with the overall academic curriculum and taught through multiple means - drama, music, the arts and technology.

[French seduces English-speaking Africans](#)

The number of French-speakers may be on the decline in Europe as learning English and Spanish grows in popularity, but Africa is experiencing the opposite trend. According to the International Organisation of the Francophonie (IOF), there are around 220 million French-speakers worldwide. Although the number is falling in Europe – down to 12 per cent of all French-speakers by 2050 – the overall figure is up due to demographic growth in Africa – where half of all French-speakers live. The total number speaking the language of Molière has risen by 20 million since 2007.

[Language classes in short supply but high demand in Oregon](#)

Did you know? Thirty-four out of 50 states, including Oregon, don't require any credits in a foreign language to graduate from high school. Second language instruction is rarely available at Jackson County public elementary and middle schools, and only a fraction of students participate. Even at the high school level, a minority of students are enrolled in a second language at any given time. Oregon's new diploma standards for 2012 require three credits from any of three categories: a second language, art and/or career and technical education. Still, study of a second language in high school remains optional, albeit recommended because of university admission requirements, which usually include two years of a second language.

[State Department ramps up in Iraq as military winds down](#)

As the U.S. military mission in Iraq continues to wind down, a ramped-up federal civilian effort will remain for five years or longer. About 1,085 State Department employees and 2,700 contractors are in Iraq now and will stay for at least three to five years as the department takes on greater roles training the Iraqi police and establishing a permanent diplomatic presence, said Michael Corbin, State's deputy assistant secretary for Iraq. The department also anticipates hiring about 7,000 more security contractors for its embassy and consulate locations, if it gets the full \$2.6 billion it requested for ongoing efforts in Iraq in 2011, he said. Corbin spoke in an interview Tuesday with editors and reporters from Gannett Government Media Corp., Federal Times' parent company.

[Summit To Save Foreign Language Education](#)

Cuts to our kids' **foreign language** programs will make it harder for them to succeed. That's one of the messages we heard at the State Summit on Foreign Languages and Cultures at Wake Forest University. Peter Floyd, Chair of the NC Summit on Foreign Languages & Cultures, told us panelists agreed languages essential in today's job market are not being offered, and if they are, they're not being offered early enough. "The ax is being laid at the foot of the tree for foreign language education. K-6 **foreign language programs** are dropping like flies all over the state and if there's one thing the experts here have said today is you cannot achieve a high level of proficiency unless you start at an early age." Wednesday's summit was open to educators at all levels and government decision-makers. By the end of the day, they hoped to set a **foreign language** agenda for the next decade.

[Government Still Pushes For Changes in Language Law](#)

Despite promises by the government that no changes will be made in Armenia's language law, a key parliament committee on Wednesday decided to bring the revised piece of legislation implying such changes to a full session next. The National Assembly in June adopted, in the first reading, controversial legal amendments proposed by the government allowing the existence of a limited number of foreign-language schools in Armenia. Those amendments also concerned the law on the language. The move met protests from public and political circles opposed to the opening of such schools in Armenia and concerned over the "status of the Armenian language", which led the government to amending the bill twice and still promising that no change would be made in the language law when the package was to be voted on in the second and final reading in autumn.

[Plan to make English 2nd language vetoed](#)

The Education Ministry has scrapped a plan to make English the country's second language, saying it could lead to misunderstandings that Thailand had been colonised in the past. The ministry will make English the main foreign language instead of the second official language, Education Minister Chinnaworn Boonyakiat said yesterday. A subcommittee on education standards development under the committee on education reform proposed in July that English be made the country's second official language. The panel hoped this would spur students to achieve proficiency in English and help place the nation on the road map to the Asean Community in 2015.

The State of Global Higher Ed

"Over the past thirty years, there has been a steady stream of reports and commissions exhorting the U.S. education system to ensure that students are prepared for global citizenship and the demands of an interconnected world," the report reads. "The continued calls for action and the data available suggest that the U.S. educational system has not achieved the goal of producing a globally literate citizenry, nor has it created a sufficient supply of language and area studies experts for the needs of business, government and academe."

Lack of linguists hampers government's mission, officials say

Employees who can speak a foreign language are becoming more critical to federal missions, but officials say gaps in language capabilities are hampering work domestically and abroad. As agencies expand their global reach, they are scrambling to shore up language skills. But fiscal constraints are forcing trade-offs with other operational responsibilities, according to David Maurer, director of the [Government Accountability Office's homeland security](#) and justice team. The Defense, Homeland Security and State departments in particular are lagging in language capacity, he told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia in July.

New interpreters save Yorkshire police forces £300,000

Police forces in Yorkshire say a drive to sign-up more language interpreters could mean a saving of up to £300,000. West Yorkshire Police - together with the North Yorkshire and Humberside forces - have encouraged people with foreign language skills to register. It is hoped up to 60 new interpreters will help cut mileage and travel costs. Terry Bradford, one of those taking part, said: "It is a very serious role. That is why I was interested in having a go. It will just be so challenging."

Hayle school becomes busy airport

The hustle and bustle of a busy airport descended on a Hayle Community School last week, to help pupils improve their language skills. The school was transformed into an arrivals and departure lounge, an airport concourse and an aircraft cabin thanks to a partnership with Newquay Airport. All the school's Year 10 pupils spent the day worked on developing their speaking language skills in French, German or Spanish and developing their understanding of the importance of languages in the business world.

How to Teach a Child Bilingual Reading

Bilingualism comes with many benefits for children, including a better ability to deal with distractions and faster mental processing.^[1] Bilingual reading ability is an important part of raising bilingual children; yet, for bilingual families, getting a child to start reading in both languages naturally could be a challenge. To avoid having to resort to tutoring at a later age, use the window of opportunity that parents can take advantage of to teach bilingual reading at home. This article explains the technique to use early in your child's life, and it's one that's easy, fun and free.

It's time to mind our languages

THE Englishman's fear of foreign tongues reached crisis levels this school year. An international study put Britain joint bottom of 39 of developed countries when it came to learning languages. Everyone agrees we start learning too late. That's why primary schools are now supposed to teach a foreign language from 7 to 11.