
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

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Closing Achievement Gap Is Education Committee Priority

Closing the achievement gap and raising overall student performance within tight budget constraints are among the top priorities the legislature's education committee set for itself Monday during its first meeting. Despite the looming \$3.5 billion budget deficit, committee co-chairman Rep. Andrew Fleischmann, D-West Hartford, said he opposes delaying the implementation of the high school reforms the legislature approved last year. The reforms, which call for schools to increase course requirements in math, science and foreign language, among other changes, would not take effect until fall 2014. But many school systems want to begin planning and training teachers and staff in preparation for the changes. Fleischmann estimates the reforms will cost the state about \$25 million.

Education issues top Wyoming legislative agendas

National debates and a heated election for state superintendent pushed education to the top of legislative agendas. Competitive federal grant programs drove major changes in other states, but Wyoming lawmakers are determined to put their own stamp on school reform. **Hathaway success curriculum, HB13:** This bill would add performing arts and career and vocational courses as an option to the foreign language requirement for the Hathaway Scholarship program.

Chinese to start in kindergarten

Kindergartners in District 54 can start learning Mandarin Chinese in the fall, giving themselves the best shot at acquiring language skills and aiding their overall development. Francis Campanelli Elementary School will offer a Chinese Immersion Program that will add a grade each year. At the end of their time in elementary school, students will be able to use English and Chinese comfortably, according to district officials.

Report criticises languages tuition

The report, Modern languages - Achievement and challenge 2007-10, released by Ofsted, recognises the significant efforts made to support languages - especially in primary schools - since the watchdog's last languages report in 2008. But it also highlights a number of weaknesses in the way secondary students are taught. The report states: "In many of the secondary schools visited, opportunities for students to listen to and communicate in the target language were often limited by many teachers' unpreparedness to use it. "Too often, students were not taught how to respond to everyday requests and thus routine work in the target language and opportunities to use it spontaneously were too few."

Google Waves Goodbye to Language Barriers

Travelers and tourists longing to communicate better with locals may be in luck very soon. Google's prototype language translator, Conversation Mode, uses Android phones to record spoken words and then play them back in a different language. Conversation Mode combines the technology of [Google Voice](#) and [Google Translate](#) (which only works for text) to translate over fifty languages via a speech interface on a smartphone. While similar translation programs exist, most of them are text-based and those that do translate speech-to-speech only work for a limited number of languages.

Scripps National Spelling Bee and K12 Form Partnership to Greatly Enhance Local Spelling Bees

Beginning this month, school spelling bee champions will be awarded the *K12 Prize for School Champions* – a foreign language course from K12's award-winning and innovative powerspeaK12 world language program. This prize gives students the opportunity to study a foreign language at the level of their choice. Used by students around the world, K12's powerspeaK12 world language courses are revolutionizing the way students learn languages. PowerspeaK12 courses include highly interactive Web-

based lessons that incorporate fun games and engaging visuals designed specifically for young minds. It is a proven and highly effective way for students of all ages to learn new languages. Powerspeak12 offers multiple level courses in Latin, Spanish, French, German and Chinese.

PREVIOUS NEWS

Airmen build foundation of Iraqi Air Force

To attend some advanced technical training, students must complete the school's English language training, which also satisfies the Iraqi Air Force's fourth core value, English language. The ELT at the Iraqi Air Force Training School is based on the Defense Language Institutes' program for teaching the English language. The program consists of 36 books and can take up to 12 months to complete. The school's commandant and Col. Nickell agree on the importance for all Iraqi airmen to learn English. "English is the international language for aviation," said Col. Nickell. "Mastering the English language is a key to the future success of Iraqi Air Force operations."

Young Elementary Joins International Program

A Louisville elementary school has become the first in Kentucky to receive a prestigious international designation. The achievement was celebrated Friday at Whitney Young Elementary. Students showed off their French language skills during a morning assembly at Young Elementary, which has been authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School by the IB organization in Geneva, Switzerland.

St. Paul schools hoping to tap into Chinese language boom with Mandarin immersion program

Buried in the fine print of St. Paul's newly published school application materials is a new kindergarten option likely to create some buzz among parents at Saturday's school-choice fair: Chinese immersion. Instruction in Chinese is growing faster than any other language in Minnesota and is on the rise nationally. And a popular charter school offering Chinese immersion — in which students receive instruction in all subjects in Chinese — recently left St. Paul for Minneapolis, creating an opportunity. Superintendent Valeria Silva has set a goal of adding about 5,000 kids to St. Paul schools in the next five years, and officials hope the new immersion program — which will also have a focus on science and math — will draw in families not currently enrolled in a St. Paul district school.

State must keep merit curriculum strong

The state must stand by its Michigan Merit Curriculum for high school diplomas, even as some worry that certain students may struggle in the face of higher expectations. Michigan can't continue to fall behind by not setting higher standards for its public schools. The merit curriculum is rigorous. Students earning a high school diploma this spring have been under its rules since 2006, including four years of math and English, three years of science, including biology and either physics or chemistry, and an online learning experience. A foreign language requirement is being phased in.

Language teachers reject jobs

Poor pay and a lack of regulation is ensuring the vast majority of people capable of teaching Chinese as a foreign language are not doing so. Delegates at a seminar held by the Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) recently heard that more than 40 percent of graduates nationwide who majored in teaching Chinese as a foreign language end up taking government jobs. Another 40 percent choose to start postgraduate studies. And most of the remaining students end up working, mainly as translators or in the banking and media sectors.

Learning languages makes us global citizens

"When we know many foreign languages we become citizens of the world; we become integrated and more involved in the affairs of the world," Lemieux said as he told the students about the importance of learning other languages. "The way we learn a new language potentially changes the way we think and the way we look at our lives," said Lemieux. In the process of studying another language one cannot help but also learn something about the culture and traditions of the people who use that language, Lemieux

stated, adding that it is an advantage when someone is exposed to those who speak a different language at an early age.

Kids Acquire Languages, They Don't Learn Better Than Adults

If a child were adopted by a Vietnamese family and I were also adopted by a Vietnamese family and the kid and I both lived with our respective Vietnamese families and attended primary school, in theory, the child would learn faster than me; in fact I could never match his accent. Because this is how we acquire language. The reality, however, is that as an adult, I will most likely not be adopted into a Vietnamese family. And in the [history of](#) the world, very few foreign children were ever adopted by and raised in a Vietnamese family. Barring this eventuality, the only way to learn the language is to study. In which case, adults learn faster.

Strategic Languages Find Home at NGCSU

It's no secret that North Georgia College & State University has been awarded federal grants totaling over \$2 million to build up its foreign language programs. These federal funds include a \$1.2 million federal contract for the university to establish a strategic languages training center on the Dahlonega campus. Items funded by the contract include instructional faculty and support staff, library resources, curriculum development to expand language offerings and study-abroad opportunities for cadets as part of their language programs.

MAVNI Soldiers look to join Special Operations Forces Elite

Please see page 16. "There is a lot of value added to having them [MAVNIs] with the SF teams as we tap into other areas of the world," said a Special Forces captain. "When that Soldier can talk to guys in this community and tap into that resource, they're telling him what's important to prepare for. On the flip side, that Soldier is serving as a translator and an asset for the team while they conduct training exercises in African countries."

Primary school pupils 'benefiting from French and German lessons'

EVERY primary school in the county is now teaching its pupils a foreign language. In 2007 the Government decided that by this year every child aged seven and over would learn at least one modern foreign language. And schools in the county all now run language classes. Councillor for children's services with [Lincolnshire County Council](#), [Patricia Bradwell](#), said: "All our primary schools are making modern languages available and we are delighted that they have risen to the challenge to provide this important subject. "All the pupils learn French and German. We start them off in reception with very basic vocabulary that they learn through songs, like they do with English, really. By the time they get to year six they can have conversations and do more advanced grammar."

Lingual Solution Launched in Response to Increased Demand for Translation Services

An economic recovery is underway, and according to a recent article published in the Journal of Commerce [i], the strong growth of US Exports evidenced in 2010 is expected to continue through 2011. This news suggests manufacturing and services companies will continue seeking increased exposure in international markets as well as multicultural domestic markets. In order for businesses to effectively communicate with target audiences in a foreign language, translations must be both accurate and culturally sensitive. LingualSolution ([lingualsolution.com](#)), a recently-launched company based in Maryland, specializes in translation and interpreting services that help businesses overcome foreign language barriers.