

*A collection of information and links to  
websites concerning  
Early Language Learning*

*February 2009*

**Enhancing Foreign Language  
Proficiency in the United States\*\***

This 33-page report was released this fall by the U.S. Department of Education and the Office of Postsecondary Education on the progress of the National Security Language Initiative. It was prepared by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and Acting Assistant Secretary Cheryl A. Oldham.

Click here to read the report [Enhancing Foreign Language Proficiency in the United States: Preliminary Results of the National Security Language Initiative.](#)

**World Languages Day Guidebook**

This publication provides a step-by-step guide to planning "World Languages Day," an event designed to stimulate interest in learning languages and to highlight the importance of cultural awareness. It was co-authored by personnel from the Center for Language Education and Research (CLEAR), the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Minnesota.

Click here to download the free [World Languages Day Guidebook.](#)

**Center for Applied Linguistics  
conducts the National K-12 Foreign  
Language Survey**

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) conducts a national survey of foreign language instruction in public and private elementary and secondary schools every decade to provide an updated national and regional portrait of foreign language instruction in the United States.

Visitors to the CAL website can download a brochure of preliminary results of the elementary school survey, sign up to receive an email notification of the publication of the survey results in 2009, or learn more about how the survey was conducted as well as additional details about the survey.

Click here to connect to the [CAL website.](#)

**Are You Smarter Than a Language  
Teacher?**

This 10 question quiz focuses on languages around the world. An answer key and the quiz are located in the "Discover Languages...Discover the World" portion of the ACTFL website.

Click here to play "[Are You Smarter Than a Language Teacher?](#)"

**Americans Want Global Education!\*\***

The findings of a new national survey commissioned by NAFSA: Association of International Educators suggests

strong support for international education among the American public.

The national survey of more than 1,000 Americans shows overwhelming support for global preparedness and cultural awareness for students. Among the findings:

- 94% understand that part of preparing for a more global society is learning about cultures from around the world.
- 90% believe it's important to ensure that future generations have the skills and knowledge needed for a more interconnected world.
- 92% agree that knowledge of foreign languages enhances job competitiveness for future generations.

Click here to read more of the findings from the survey [Americans Call for Leadership on International Education](#).

### **Concordia Language Villages**

The Concordia Language Villages offer language experiences in 15 different languages: Arabic, Finnish, Japanese, Russian, Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, Danish, German, Norwegian, Swedish, English, Italian, and Portuguese. No previous language experience is required. Programs are available for youth, families, adults, and educators.

Register by February 28 for the early bird discount.

Click here to learn more about the [Concordia Language Villages](#).

### **February is Discover Languages Month**

The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) website lists ideas for how to celebrate Discover Languages month. Ideas included in this list are:

- Plan school wide events that focus on students' use and performance of the target language. Invite school administrators and local legislators to the event.
- Request that your administration declare a "Discover Languages Day" during February at your school in which the various languages are featured during the day and older students teach language lessons to younger students or perform for them.
- Request that your mayor, town council and/or Board of Education issue a proclamation designating February as *Discover Languages* month in your community.
- Sponsor a "language ambush" in which your city or community is given a "grade" on how well languages are spoken. Use it as an opportunity to get media coverage for the *Discover Languages* national promotion.

Click here to read the entire list of ideas for celebrating [Discover Languages month](#).

\*\*Links provided by Stephanie Anderson.

Send any information, comments, or questions for *Newsworthy* to Tammy Dann at [trdann@q.com](mailto:trdann@q.com)