

Languages in the News

ACTFL Position Statements

The American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) maintains a series of position statements that illustrate the best practices and policies related to language education. Statements addressing teaching practice include topics such as maximum class size, target language use in the classroom, considerations for heritage and native speakers, and the use of technology and general principles of early language learning. Additional statements highlight policies which affect language instruction, such as incorporating language as a core content area in K-16, recommendations for legislative priorities as well as teacher recruitment and retention. The site is a valuable resource for anyone who wishes to advocate for language education.

In May ACTFL released a position statement on Languages as a Core Component of Education for All Students.

Click [here](#) to access ACTFL's Position Statements.

Gov. Herbert's Testimony before the U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee

The governor of Utah, Gary Herbert, asserts that his first priority is to create jobs in Utah. Forbes Magazine has named Utah as the best state for business and careers for the third year in a row. The governor declared that the state's investment in education is key to a growing economy. Herbert outlined three major initiatives that the state is targeting. One initiative is focused on foreign language education. Specifically, he claimed that the state is increasing its number of dual language immersion programs, because these type of programs result in cognitive benefits and increases in standardized test scores. The governor boasted that Utah is a leader in foreign language education.

One-third of all Mandarin Chinese classes taught in the entire United States are taught in Utah. In addition, there are 658 languages spoken in Utah. A major reason for these statistics is due to residents who serve a Mormon mission that often involves living abroad. Herbert acknowledges that the state's multi-lingual students are a critical component of the workforce which attracts business to the state.

Click [here](#) to read *Gov. Herbert's Testimony before the U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee*.

Tips and Tools for Early Language

WEBSITES

The Lunch Box Project

This Wiki provides opportunities for students to use a foreign language for an authentic purpose through the presentation and interpretative communication modes. They can also make comparisons between themselves and students from other countries. After becoming members of the Wiki, teachers and students can communicate with others from around the world.

Currently, there are participants from Australia, Portugal, France, Canada, and Mexico. The images of school lunches from a variety of countries are current and could be used by teachers in a variety of ways in the classroom as cultural activities.

Click [here](#) to access The Lunch Box Project.

CantaJuego Vevo's Channel

This link provides Spanish teachers with a variety of songs as mnemonic devices. These very peppy Spanish 'Cheerleaders' sing, dance and gesture their way through a variety of Spanish vocabulary.

Click [here](#) to access the CantaJuego Vevo's Channel.

This issue of *Newsworthy* was compiled by Tammy Dann. Send any comments, questions or information for future issues to her at tdann@nnell.org

APPS for iPads, iPods and iPhones

Fetch It! Spanish

Become Domino, the word fetching dog, as you search the icons for each Spanish word displayed. Each game is timed and the controls can be altered to move Domino by either tapping arrows or tilting the entire iPad. This app is free and contains a wide variety of vocabulary. More vocabulary packs can be purchased.

Animal Puzzles Lite

Piece together puzzles while practicing language skills for English, German, Spanish, or French. This free app is geared toward preschool or elementary learners. Once an animal puzzle is completed the animal name is both displayed and spoken before moving on to the next puzzle challenge. An arrow button allows learners to undo successfully completed puzzles for further practice. Within settings the difficulty can be adjusted to easy, medium, or hard. Other vocabulary packs, such as Africa, forest, and desert can be purchased.

Thank you to Heather Hendry, Shanon Shreffler, and Andrea Suarez for providing links and to Amy Murphy for providing the apps used in this issue.

Thank you to Amy Murphy, Kennedy Schultz, Sally Hood and Veronica Guevara for their work writing summaries.