

# JNCL-NCLIS

## Advocacy and Legislative Update

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JOINT NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LANGUAGES

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LANGUAGES AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



# WE SPEAK LANGUAGE POLICY



Over 40 years of language advocacy to ensure all Americans have the opportunity to learn English and at least one other language.

**JNCL-NCLIS unites a national network of leading organizations and businesses comprised of over 300,000 language professionals to advocate for equitable language learning opportunities.**

## CONNECTING AND SUPPORTING The Advocacy Needs of Our Diverse Coalition

- ▶ K-12 World Language Education
- ▶ English Language Learners
- ▶ Dual Language Immersion
- ▶ Early Language Education
- ▶ Higher Education Language and International Studies
- ▶ Professional Learning & Educator Needs
- ▶ Community-Based Heritage Language Schools
- ▶ Translation and Interpretation Industry

# JNCL-NCLIS STATEMENT ON THE 2023 MLA REPORT

## JNCL-NCLIS Statement on the 2021 MLA Report on Enrollment in Higher Education Language Courses



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 21st, 2023 – [The Modern Language Association's \(MLA\) 2021 report](#) on the 16.6% drop in college and university enrollments in world language courses is devastating. Twelve of the fifteen most commonly taught languages saw declines in college course enrollment since MLA's last report in 2016, with many seeing double-digit reductions. For instance, college and university enrollments in German fell by 33.6%, in French by more than 23%, and in Latin by 21.5%. Despite Spanish being the second most spoken language in the United States and the most widely studied, enrollments in Spanish dropped by 18%. Even languages critical to the nation's diplomatic and intelligence missions saw significant retrenchment – Chinese language courses lost more than 14% of their students, Arabic courses lost more than 27%, and Russian lost 13.5%. Even worse, nearly all of these declines represent an acceleration of trends that began as far back as 2009. While there are bright spots in the report – the more than 38% growth in Korean language enrollments, for example, they are dwarfed by the overall loss of more than 235,000 students studying the most commonly taught languages since 2016 and more than 490,000 since 2009.



# PURPOSE

This report is designed to provide information to language advocates looking for ways to support their programs at institutions of higher education. In response to a recent uptick in requests for support as well as reporting of national data, JNCL-NCLIS conducted an informal voluntary survey of language department leaders to gain insight into the challenges being faced by language programs.



## HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LANGUAGE EDUCATION

*A Roadmap for Language Education Advocacy*



# THE SURVEY



## How did we conduct the survey?

- Collected qualitative information from higher education program representatives.
- Outreach was conducted digitally with the help of our member organizations.

## Who Responded?

- Responses from across the country
- Both public and private schools responded in equal numbers

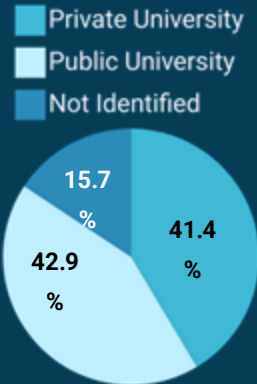


Figure 2. Institution Type

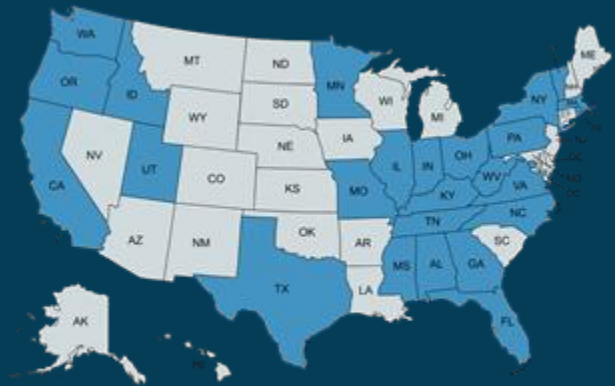


Figure 3. States Represented



# HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS - SUMMARY

## The Challenges

These common issues point to a lack of overall understanding of the value and importance of language learning at higher education by university leaders and decision makers.



**53%**

Low Student  
Enrollment



**26%**

Lack of  
Support from  
the Institution



**13%**

Changes to language  
requirements/  
curriculum



**13%**

Limited  
Staffing and  
Resources



**11%**

Financial  
Constraints

## Efforts to Support Language Programs

In response to the identified challenges, language departments are employing various strategies to improve their situations. These efforts reflect proactive and innovative approaches to overcoming the obstacles faced by language programs.



Interdisciplinary  
Courses



Collaboration with Other  
Departments



New Developments and  
Innovations

# INNOVATIVE RESPONSES

## Southern Methodist University

### Global Literacy and Languages Research Cluster

The Research Cluster on "Global Literacy and Languages for Specific Purposes: Curricular design for building transferable skills" unites faculty from a range of disciplines to discuss and define shared goals and best practices to provide students with global perspectives and transferable skills aligned with skills employers seek in the contemporary workplace.

**REPORT**

Source: [www.smu.edu](http://www.smu.edu)

SMU

EXPLORE SMU

Dedman College of Humanities  
and Sciences

Undergraduate Directory



Department of World Languages and Literatures

FACULTY RESOURCES · RESEARCH CLUSTERS · GLOBAL LITERACY AND LANGUAGES FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

## Global Literacy and Languages for Specific Purposes

A virtual panel organized by the Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute's Research

Putting your Languages to Work 2024: Purposes

Watch later Share

**PUTTING YOUR LANGUAGES TO WORK: ALUMNI PANEL**

**ANDREA KALLAN '92**  
Associate and Office Director for  
Public and Congressional Affairs,  
Bureau of Economic Analysis and  
Regional State Department

**WIRENN SCHMIDT '08**  
Associate  
The Dallas Institute of Studies

**LOUISA WEINDRUCH '17**  
Senior Lecturer, Emergent Studies  
Health & Learning, Global Studies

**SARA FITUSI '17**  
Senior Lecturer  
LSP

**JEREMIAH TYSON '20**  
Assistant Director  
Language Policy

**WELCOME! WE WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 4:30 PM CDT**

Watch on YouTube

[www.smu.edu/LSP](http://www.smu.edu/LSP)

# INNOVATIVE RESPONSES

## Montclair State University

### Interdisciplinary Major

This innovative program combines intensive language and culture study with fundamental business skills to prepare students for exciting careers both at home and abroad.

**REPORT**

Source: [www.montclair.edu](http://www.montclair.edu)

**MONTCLAIR**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Language, Business and Culture

Passionate about world languages? Equally enthusiastic about business?  
Interested in exploring new academic avenues that will provide the diverse skills to engage you in the global marketplace?

Declare your major today!

The new Bachelor of Arts in Language, Business & Culture is an integrated and interdisciplinary major offered by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Feliciano School of Business. The innovative program combines intensive language and culture study (a choice of Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish) with fundamental business skills to prepare students for exciting careers both at home and abroad.

Majors explore the relevance of foreign language learning in a globalized world by honing target-language skills and applying knowledge to a range of business and professional-related fields. Students develop the hard and soft skills that employers seek: transferable soft skills, including intercultural competence, writing skills, oral communication, critical thinking and cognitive flexibility, and the knowledge base of international business, accounting, economics, finance, technology and cross-cultural business communications.

The official launch

Read more

Language Alumni

Their stories

Speaking the Language of Business

Read about Italian



# TAKE ACTION

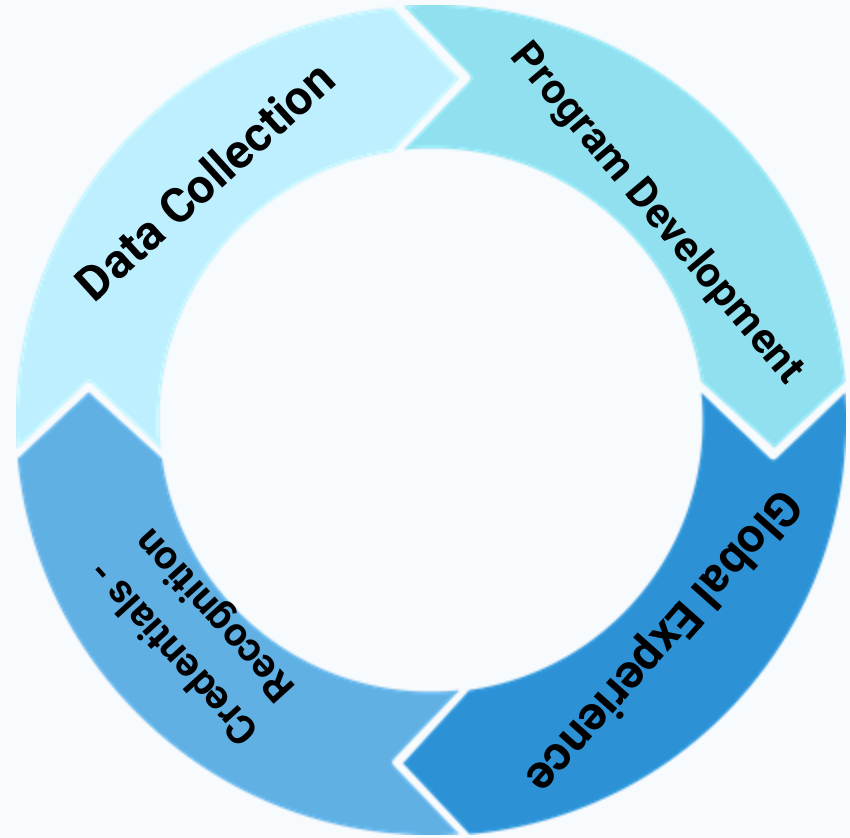
To advocate for and protect language education at higher education institutions (IHEs), we suggest the following:

- **Strengthen Advocacy Through Data and Research**
- **Enhance Institutional and Community Engagement**
- **Foster Interdisciplinary Collaboration**
- **Create and Support Advocacy Networks**



# AN ESSENTIAL COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

A collaborative and unified approach to policy and legislation is crucial to our work to create pathways that support equitable language learning opportunities for all students.



# PRIORITY LEGISLATION

## 1. The World Language Education Assistance Program (World LEAP) Act (H.R. 5603)

- Create a multi-year, competitive grant program, open to all K-12 school districts, to establish, improve, and carry out world language and dual language programs.

## 2. The Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching (BEST) Act (H.R. 7007/S. 3595)

- The revised Biliteracy Educational Seal and Teaching (BEST) Act, which would provide funding to states to establish, improve, and implement Seal of Biliteracy programs.

## 3. The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act (H.R. 4588/S. 2261)

- Help higher education institutions to sustainably expand study abroad opportunities for undergraduate students in the United States.

## 4. The Retaining the Language Attainment Research Provision in the Advancing Research in Education Act (AREA) (S. 3392)

- Mandate that the Department's Statistics Center "collect, report, analyze, and disseminate statistical data..." related to K-12 and higher education on "the availability of, and access to, foreign language coursework."

## 5. Full Funding for Key Language Education Programs including

- World Language Advancement and Readiness Grants Program (WLARA)
- Native American Language Resource Center (NALRC)
- Title III
- Title VI



# FEDERAL UPDATE: LAME DUCK



## Schedule

- Congress is supposed to be in session for 5 of the next 6 weeks
- Adjournment by December 20th
- Republican leadership elections – Completed
- House Democratic leadership elections – November 19th
- Senate Democratic leadership elections – December

## Items to be addressed

- FY25 Appropriations
- FY25 National Defense Authorization Act
- Farm Bill reauthorization
- Disaster Aid

## Focus on FY25 Appropriations

- Current CR expires December 20th
- Some Republicans interested in kicking final funding decisions to next Congress
- However, may want to clear the decks now to move Budget Reconciliation bill, Trump Administration nominations, and other priorities

**IF FY25 APPROPS ARE PUSHED TO NEXT YEAR, THERE WILL LIKELY BE MAJOR EDUCATION CUTS**

# COMPARING HOUSE AND SENATE EDUCATION SPENDING IN FY25 BILLS



	HOUSE	SENATE
<b>Overall USDE Spending</b>	Cut \$11.1 billion	Increase by \$900 million
<b>Program Eliminations</b>	Eliminate 17 programs, including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title II-A, Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants – \$2.19 billion</li> <li>• Title III, English Language Acquisition – \$890 million</li> <li>• Teacher Quality Partnerships – \$70 million</li> </ul>	Fund all current programs
<b>Program Cuts/Adds</b>	Cut Title I by \$3.78 billion and HEA Title VI \$4.133 million	Add \$280 million to Title I and level fund Title VI
<b>Areas of Agreement</b>	Both House and Senate would increase Title IV-A by \$10 million Both would level fund Native Hawaiian education and Alaska Native Senate would level fund NALRC while House would increase it by \$100,000	

# JNCL-NCLIS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: WLARA IN FY25

- JNCL has been working to restore money cut last year
  - Organizing awardees
  - Awardee meetings with Defense Appropriators
  - Caucus Briefing – July 30th
- The Result: House passed Defense bill provided \$15 million for WLARA
- Senate bill would still provide only \$10 million

## WLARA 2024



## WLARA Over Time



# FEDERAL UPDATE: TAKE ACTION ON FY25 APPROPRIATIONS NOW

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**Protect Funding**  
**TAKE ACTION!**

# REGISTER TODAY!

MARCH 3rd & 4th, 2025

**2025** LANGUAGE  
ADVOCACY  
DAYS  
#LAD25  
Mar. 3 & 4



WASHINGTON, D.C.

[www.languagepolicy.org/lad](http://www.languagepolicy.org/lad)



*THIS YEAR, LANGUAGE ADVOCACY DAYS 2025 WILL TAKE PLACE IN PERSON IN WASHINGTON AND WILL BE COMPLEMENTED BY A ONE-DAY, SINGLE-ISSUE-FOCUSED VIRTUAL ADVOCACY ACTION DAY EVENT IN THE FALL!*



# ADVOCACY RESOURCES

One place for all of your state and federal advocacy needs!

Contact JNCL to feature your organization's advocacy resources!

[www.languagepolicy.org/advocacyresources](http://www.languagepolicy.org/advocacyresources)

**ADVOCACY STARTS WITH YOU**

**LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE**

LEGISLATION BEGINS WITH A PROPOSAL FROM A MEMBER OF CONGRESS OR A STATE LEGISLATOR. THE PROCESS THEN MOVES THROUGH SEVERAL STEPS:

- PROPOSAL:** A member of Congress or a state legislator introduces a bill.
- COMMITTEE:** The bill is assigned to a committee for review.
- DEBATE:** The bill is debated and voted on in the House or Senate.
- PASSAGE:** The bill is passed by a majority vote in both chambers.
- SIGNATURE:** The President or Governor signs the bill into law.

**STATE ADVOCACY RESOURCES**

ADVOCACY RESOURCES BY STATE

ADVOCACY RESOURCES BY TOPIC

BILL TEXT AND ARTICLES

**FEDERAL ADVOCACY RESOURCES**

LEGISLATION AND BILLS

REGULATIONS AND RULES

NEWS ARTICLES

**JNCL-NCLIS GUIDES COMMUNICATING FOR SUCCESS**

OUTREACH TEMPLATES

CONNECTING WITH LEGISLATORS

ADVOCACY 101

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO CONTRIBUTE A RESOURCE, EMAIL US AT [info@languagepolicy.org](mailto:info@languagepolicy.org)

**UNDERSTANDING "World LEAP"**

The World Language Education Advancing Program (World LEAP) Act, P.L. 115-222

**DEFINITION**

The World LEAP Act directs the Secretary of Education to award grants to local educational agencies to establish or improve world language programs.

**PURPOSE**

- Establish or improve language programs
- Provide training for the Language Acquisition Program for Teachers and Educators
- Support and create language programs

**CRITERIA FOR GRANT SELECTION**

- Comprehensive and Effective
- A Model that can be Replicated
- A Plan for Sustainability
- Professional Development

**PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS**

- Administer intensive Summer Professional Development
- Build Partnerships with Community-Based Heritage Language Centers
- Conduct Programs in Consonance with an Institution of Higher Education
- Provide Programs across all Groups including Heritage and English Language Learners
- Recruit Students from Diverse Backgrounds into the Language Teacher Pipeline
- Collaborate with State Leaders to Broaden Language Teacher Certification Pathways

**RAISE YOUR VOICE**

Imagine the steps in which the World LEAP Act will help make language learning a central part of education in the United States. Consider the possibilities and advocate today!

Search for Proposals at [LEAP.gov](http://LEAP.gov) (Site Only, Web Only)

[www.languagepolicy.org](http://www.languagepolicy.org) #worldleap #worldleapact #languagepolicy

**Language at the Intersection: How Multilingualism Moves Our World**

*What is your language intersection?*

This infographic explores the intersection of language and culture, highlighting the benefits of multilingualism and the challenges of language barriers. It features various photos of people and text boxes discussing the importance of language in education, business, and daily life.





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an advocate!



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