

## Why should Tennessee students study World Languages?

### World languages...

- benefit academic progress in core subjects;
- improve scores for at-risk students;
- develop basic skills;
- help score higher on standardized tests;
- improve creativity and ability in problem-solving and critical thinking;
- foster awareness & appreciation of global communities;
- expand and enhance career opportunities.

“...a recent study...[from] the University of California, San Diego, found that individuals with a higher degree of bilingualism...were more resistant than others to the onset of dementia and other symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease...”<sup>4</sup>

“Students with fewer than two years of [foreign / classical] language had a mean FYGPA [First Year College GPA] of 2.72, compared to 2.95 for those with two or more years of language, 3.02 for those with three or more years of language, and 3.13 for those with four years of language.”<sup>10</sup>



<http://www.tflta.org/publications.html>



### References

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“Knowing other languages and understanding other cultures is a 21st Century skill set for American students as they prepare to live and work in a global society.”<sup>13</sup>

“...research has found a positive link between second language proficiency and cognitive and academic ability.”<sup>22</sup>

## Why Study World Languages?

“Knowing another language provides a competitive edge in career choices in today’s and tomorrow’s world.”<sup>33</sup>

“...a multilingual workforce enhances America’s economic competitiveness abroad, helps maintain our political and security interests, and promotes tolerance and intercultural awareness.”<sup>22</sup>



# WORLD LANGUAGES: SKILLS FOR ACADEMIC & LIFELONG SUCCESS AND INTEGRATION IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY.



## World language studies...

### Foment brain development by...

- **Broadening intellectual horizons;**

“Being bilingual...makes you smarter.”<sup>4</sup>

- **Making connections among concepts;**
- **Enhancing ability to filter and categorize new information;**
- **Building identity, social awareness, and savoir-faire;**

“...students who have studied a foreign language develop greater cognitive skills in such areas as mental flexibility, creativity, divergent thinking and higher order thinking skills.”<sup>3</sup>

- **Promoting analytical, logical, and reasoning skills;**
- **Encouraging creativity and divergent thinking.**

“The collective evidence from a number of...studies suggests that the bilingual experience improves the brain’s...command system that directs the attention processes that we use for planning, solving problems and performing various other mentally demanding tasks...[including] ignoring distractions to stay focused, switching attention willfully from one thing to another and holding information in mind...”<sup>4</sup>

## World language studies...

### Strengthen academic achievement by...

- **Supporting English in vocabulary, reading, writing, and grammar;**

“...verbal scores of students who had taken four or five years of foreign language were higher than the verbal scores of students who had taken four or five years of any other subject.”<sup>5</sup>

- **Transferring skills to other academic subjects;**

“Foreign language study can help to alter the trajectory for children of average intelligence and narrow the achievement gap.”<sup>6</sup>

- **Developing confidence in all communicative and interpretative skills;**

- **Promoting higher scores on standardized tests.**

“...students who are learning a foreign language out-score their non-foreign language learning peers in the verbal and, surprisingly to some, the math sections of standardized tests.”<sup>7</sup>

## World language studies...

### Ensure lifelong success by...

- **Enhancing career opportunities;**

“In a [2004] survey...most respondents said they had gained a competitive advantage from their knowledge of foreign languages...often a critical factor in hiring decisions and in enhancing their career paths...”<sup>8</sup>

- **Improving accessibility to a global economy and society;**

“...[students] report that their foreign language skills often enhance their [job] mobility and improve their chances for promotion.”<sup>9</sup>

- **Developing appreciation for products and perspectives of other cultures;**

“No matter what career students enter, they will be interacting with others around the world on a routine basis and doing business locally with those whose native language is not English.”<sup>1</sup>

- **Promoting cultural awareness and competency;**
- **Fostering a sense of community and security.**

“Americans fluent in other languages improve global communication, enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, and maintain our political and security interests.”<sup>4</sup>