



# WORLD LANGUAGE AT MILLBURN

Millburn BOE 1/4/2010  
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# Benefits of foreign language study

- Language learning supports student achievement.
- Language learning provides cognitive benefits to students.
- Language learning broadens appreciation and understanding of other cultures.
- Learning a second language is an essential skill in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

# Language learning supports student achievement

- Language learning correlates with higher academic achievement on standardized test measures, including ACT and SAT tests.
- Language learning is beneficial in the development of students' reading abilities.
- There is a correlation between language learning and students' ability to hypothesize in science.

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4524>

# Language learning provides cognitive benefits to students

- There is evidence that early language learning improves cognitive abilities.
- Studies have indicated that correlations exist between bilingualism and memory skills, problem solving ability, and verbal and spatial abilities.

[http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=4526#improves\\_cognitive](http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=4526#improves_cognitive)

# Language learning broadens appreciation and understanding of other cultures

- Research suggests that language learners develop a more positive attitude toward the target language and/or the speakers of that language.

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=4527>

# Learning a second language is an essential skill in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- According to data from the U. S. Census Bureau in 2000, 21.4% of Lake County residents speak a language other than English at home.

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/17097.html>

# Why is this important to consider?

- Millburn students should have access to curriculum that will allow them to remain competitive with peers in other high-achieving districts.
- We may further our mission of “efficiently preparing students to become productive, responsible members of a changing world.”
- In doing so, we “promote the opportunities for students to share their diverse perspectives, cultural insights, and personal experiences” sought in our School Vision Statement.
- Without foreign language, Millburn District is not eligible to apply for the NCLB Blue Ribbon Award, even if nominated by the state.

# Lake County Bright A+ award-winning school districts: a comparison

District	Language/s (Grade Level)
Bannockburn 106	Spanish (K – 8)
Deerfield 109	Spanish/French Exploratory (6), Spanish/French (7 – 8)
Kildeer 96	Spanish (7 – 8)
Lake Forest 67	Latin (2 – 3), Latin/Spanish/French (4 – 8)
Libertyville 70	Spanish/French (6 – 8)
Lincolnshire – Prairie View 103	Spanish (7 – 8)
Millburn 24	NONE
Oak Grove 68	French Exploratory (2 – 4), Spanish (6 – 8)





## Other nearby districts offering World Language

- Antioch 34
- CCSD 46
- Woodland 50
- Round Lake 116
- Emmons 33



# Why now?

I present this with the understanding that we are not in a financial position to be shopping for new programs.

Nonetheless, this is important information for us to know. When we begin work on the district's strategic plan and set goals for the future, I would like to see world language factor into the discussion.