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Date: 3/29/2003 12:02:08 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: "STAN DRAPER" <sdraper@pyramid.net>

To: <Unrgurtie@aol.com>

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Tya Mathis:

I am a retired officer of the Army Reserve having been on active duty with the army for over 15 years. During that period I was fortunate enough to attend that US Army Language School at Monterey, California. (Now, the Defense Language Institute) I studied the French Language for nine months becoming proficient in the language. I have retained most of my proficiency to date, 40 years later. It was, truly, one of the great experiences of my life. Because of this I have always had a great respect for the teaching of foreign language. I spent three years in France and my proficiency in the language enriched that experience greatly. Being able to converse with people in their language adds greatly to any relationship with people from another country. I support legislation that would set up a formal program for the teaching of foreign language in our schools. One caveat-learning a language is not everyone's "cup of tea" and any language program should recognize that and not make such a program mandatory.

I hope my comments prove useful-if I can be of further assistance, please contact me by e-mail.

Stan Draper

sdraper@pyramid.net

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 5-7-03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT C

SUBMITTED BY: Ms. Tya Mathis

C108 14



Summary: Establishes
a program of
instruction in the
cultures associated
with certain Foreign
Languages.

“As boundaries between countries are being dissolved, the need for foreign language instruction has become a necessary component for linking with the rest of the world and for producing an enlightened citizenship able to function in today’s shrinking world.”

-NCPublicSchools.org

The purpose of this bill is to offer elementary school students in Nevada an opportunity to become familiar with other cultures besides their own.

The lessons learned will help them later on in life when they are exposed to people from many diverse cultures.

Through this program our children will hopefully gain an appreciation for a new language and its culture or language and culture in general.

Ensure economic competitiveness:

To maintain national security;

To teach tolerance and respect for others
outside of the United States

There are four major types of foreign language & culture programs that are available in elementary schools in the

United States.

-FLES Programs

-FLEX Programs

-Immersion Programs

-Two-Way Immersion Programs

The most frequently offered foreign language programs in US elementary schools

These programs present a second language as a distinct subject (much like science or social studies)

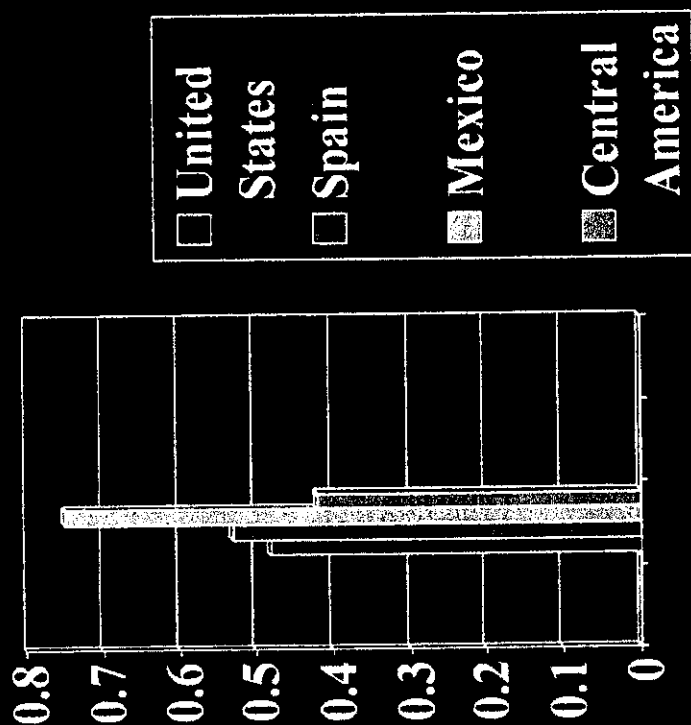
Most FLES Programs focus on teaching the four communication skills- listening, speaking, reading and writing, along with culture.

Depending on the frequency of the classes and the opportunities provided for practicing the language, children in long sequence FLES Programs may attain substantial foreign language proficiency.

1. The following subjects as designated as the core academic subjects that must be taught, as applicable for grade levels, in all public schools:
 - a. English
 - b. Mathematics
 - c. Science and
 - d. Social Studies (history, geography, economics and government)
2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in addition to the core academic subjects, the following subjects must be taught as applicable for grade levels and to the extent practicable in all public schools:
 - a. The arts
 - b. Computer Education & Technology
 - c. Health and
 - d. Physical Education

<u>State</u>	<u>Title & State of Bill</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Summary</u>
FL	SB 20E/ Signed into law	Pre K-12	Required every local board to create a plan for K-12 Foreign language Curriculum
MA	HB 5010/Signed into law	Pre K-12	"Within five years of the effective date of this act, any foreign language classes required by the department...or by the school district shall be required for students in elementary schools and optional for students in high schools."

The United States is the third largest Spanish speaking country in the world.



Since, the FLES program has already been established at some Nevada schools I would like the committee to be aware of the importance of teaching both the language and the concurrent culture in elementary schools.

Learning about diverse cultures is important and this should be included in our social studies curriculum. Therefore, the following amendment has been made.

The Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools is required to adopt standards for existing social studies subjects that include the teaching of cultures of people of various racial and ethnic groups represented in the United States. The racial and ethnic cultures will be taught in grades kindergarten through five.

The new social studies standards would apply statewide, beginning with the 2004-2005 school year.

- Improving their grades and entrance exam scores
- Enhancing their analytic and interpretive capacities
- Increasing their future job opportunities
- Giving them the opportunity to connect with people from diverse cultures.

