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Foreign Language Status Report: Focus on Spanish

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Goals of State Foreign Language Programs

- Communicate in languages other than English
- Gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures
- Connect with and acquire information from other disciplines



Goals cont.

- Develop insight into the nature of language and culture through comparisons
- Participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world



Kentucky's Academic Expectations

- Students interact effectively and work cooperatively with the diverse ethnic and cultural groups of our nation and world
- Students complete tasks, make presentations, and create models that demonstrate awareness of the diversity of forms, structures, and concepts across languages and how they may interrelate



Kentucky's Academic Expectations cont.

- Students understand and communicate in a second language



Kentucky Compared to Other States

- Foreign Language is not a part of the Commonwealth Assessment and Testing System.
- Foreign language is not a high school graduation requirement.



Kentucky's Current Trends in Foreign Language Enrollment

- All high schools in Kentucky offer two years of a foreign language.
- 62,686 students were enrolled in a foreign language class in 1997-98.
- 60,248 students were enrolled in a foreign language class in 1998-99.
- 30,110 students were enrolled in classes beyond the first year of language study in 1999.



Kentucky's Current Trends in Foreign Language Enrollment

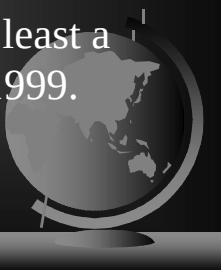
- The total number of students taking foreign language by subject area were:

	1998	1999
– French	14,984	14,534
– German	3,055	2,737
– Latin	3,222	2,811
– Russian	225	229
– Spanish	41,200	39,937



College Attendance and Foreign Language Classes

- 44% of 1996-97 high school graduates attended one of Kentucky's colleges and universities in fall 1997.
- 31% of high school students took a foreign language class in 1999.
- 15% of high school students took at least a second year of foreign language in 1999.



Kentucky Compared to Other States, cont.

- Six states have foreign language mandates at the elementary level (Kentucky does not).
- As of 1994, 33% of U. S. secondary students were studying a language other than English.
- Of the 22 states responding to an inquiry, 12 have a foreign language consultant at the state level (Kentucky has established a foreign language position).



Current Instructional Methods

- Interactive communicative approach with emphasis on multiculturalism and the use of technology.
- Students frequently communicate with each other in the language they are studying. Technology has allowed students to communicate with native speakers. Because of the short length of study, students do not become fluent.



Desired State of Foreign Language Instruction

- Immersion method of foreign language instruction - students spend part or all of the day learning a variety of disciplines in the foreign language
- Content-based instruction - the foreign language is used as the language of instruction in classes such as humanities, math, or vocational training



Teacher Availability

- Number of teachers currently teaching foreign language: 739
- Number of teachers currently certified to teach foreign language at the high school level: 4888

