

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MEMORANDUM OF PROCLAMATION NO. 17-2004

TO: Nancy L. Russo-Rumore, President
FROM: Steve Levy, County Executive of Suffolk County
RE: The Year of Language

Pursuant to Sections 3-2, 3-3, and 3-4 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CHARTER, I hereby proclaim the year 2005, as "The Year of Language" in Suffolk County in an effort to make the citizens of Suffolk County aware of the importance of focusing America's attention on the social benefits of studying other languages and cultures from around the world will positively influence the full range of language programs in schools across the County of Suffolk; increase public awareness of our diverse population and their languages and cultures that enrich the American way of life with friends, neighborhood, colleagues, and employees coming from a vast array of backgrounds; promote international understanding and the ability to communicate in other languages; increase job opportunities for future generations of Americans; and demonstrate the importance of Elementary and Secondary Education including foreign language as part of a core curriculum that includes English, mathematics, science, civics, economics, art, history, and geography.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 names foreign language study as part of a core curriculum that includes English, mathematics, science, civics, economics, arts, history, and geography. According to the Joint Center for International Language, foreign language study increases a student's cognitive and critical thinking abilities.

According to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, foreign language study increases a student's ability to compare and contrast cultural concepts.

According to a 1992 report by the College Entrance Examination Board, students with 4 or more years in foreign language study scored higher on the verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) than students who did not. The Higher Education Act of 1965 labels foreign language study as vital to secure the future economic welfare of the United States in a growing international economy and recommends encouraging businesses and foreign language study programs to work in a mutually productive relationship which benefits the Nation's future economic interest.

According to the Centers for International Business Education and Research program, foreign language study provides the ability to both gain a comprehensive understanding of and interact with the cultures of United States trading partners, and thus establishes a solid foundation for successful economic relationships. A 1998 study conducted by the National Foreign Language Center concludes that inadequate resources existed for the development, publication, distribution, and teaching of critical foreign languages (such as Arabic, Vietnamese, and Thai) because of low student enrollment in the United States.

DATED: February 15, 2005.


STEVE LEVY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OF SUFFOLK COUNTY

cc: Henry L. Barton, Jr., Clerk of the Legislature
Kevin S. Law, Esq., Chief Deputy County Executive for Administration and General Counsel
Paul Sabatino II, Esq., Chief Deputy County Executive
Frederick B. Pollert, Deputy County Executive for Finance and Management
Jeffrey Szabo, Deputy County Executive and Chief of Staff
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