

Project 21CL2: 21st Century Languages for 21st Century Learners



Overview of Project 21CL2

- 5 year grant award
- Total federal funding approximately \$1.3 million
- Serving the following schools: K. Davis Elementary, Cross Timbers Intermediate, T.A. Howard Middle School and Ben Barber Career Tech Academy



Project 21CL2 Goals

1. Promote the sequential study of Arabic for grades K-16
2. Establish standardized Arabic instruction through Social Studies content mapping in grades K-6, and Leveled Arabic in grades 7-12



Project Goals

3. Increase students' proficiency in Arabic
4. Provide professional development training on language acquisition, foreign language methodology and distance education technology



Project Objectives

- Develop K-6 Arabic Curriculum Maps aligned to National and State standards aimed to provide Arabic instruction to K-6 students through the Social Studies content
- Provide sequential Arabic instruction to middle school students and Leveled Arabic to high school students



Project Objectives

- Increase the number of certified foreign language teachers and native Arabic language staff through the hiring of 3 Arabic instructors/native language associates
- Improve the quality of teaching for MISD staff through intensive professional development
- Promote cross-cultural communication and two-way language learning through parent/community partnership activities



Project Objectives

- Build partnerships with local, state, national and international organizations with expertise in Arabic language and culture
- Build partnerships with University of Texas and William Penn University as required by OELA (Office of English Language Acquisition) to provide support to MISD



Benefits of Foreign Language Programs

- Cognitive Benefits
 - Greater cognitive development, creativity, and divergent thinking than monolingual children
- Academic Benefits
 - Improved test scores in Reading and Math
 - Positive correlation between number of years in foreign language programs and ACT/SAT scores
- Societal Benefits
 - Increasing number of jobs require interaction in languages other than English and cross-cultural competence



Did You Know?

- 4 out of 5 new jobs in the U.S. are created as a result of foreign trade
- Each year 200,000 Americans lose out on jobs with business because they do not know another language (The Tongue Tied American)
- The Hispanic share of the workforce will increase by 25% by 2010
- The Asian share will increase by 50%
- Minorities will keep moving up the corporate ladder in the next 15 years
- Managers who know how to deal with a diverse workforce will have an advantage over monolingual colleagues



Why Arabic?

- Despite efforts to recruit individuals with critical language proficiency such as Arabic or Chinese, shortfalls remain at 39% (U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2009)
- Nearly 300 million people speak Arabic worldwide.
- Proficiency in Arabic provides a wide range of cultural and professional benefits (U.S. Department of State, 2009)



Conclusion

"Through learning language, we learn about culture. Through learning about culture, we learn respect for others. Through learning respect for others, we can hope for peace." Anonymous

