

CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES ON AREAS OF NATIONAL NEED

Section 601(c)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA) requires that the Secretary of Education consult with Federal agency heads in order to receive recommendations regarding areas of national need for expertise in foreign languages and world regions. The Secretary may take those recommendations into account when identifying areas of national need for the International Education Programs authorized by Title VI of the HEA and administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE). See HEA, Section 601(c) (20 U.S.C. 1121 (c)). What follows are the areas of national need identified by the Secretary, consisting of the seventy-eight priority languages that are less commonly taught and the world regions. Also included below is a summary of responses from those Federal agencies that responded to the Secretary's request for recommendations for Title VI competitions in FY 2013. For responses from additional Federal agencies, see Web postings from FY 2012, FY 2011, and FY 2010.

PRIORITY LANGUAGES

- Akhan (Twi-Fante)
- Albanian
- Amharic
- Arabic (all dialects)
- Armenian
- Azeri (Azerbaijani)
- Balochi
- Bamanakan (Bamana, Bambara, Mandikan, Mandingo, Maninka, Dyula)
- Belarusian
- Bengali (Bangla)
- Berber (all languages)
- Bosnian
- Bulgarian
- Burmese
- Cebuano (Visayan)
- Chechen
- Chinese, Cantonese
- Chinese, Gan
- Chinese, Mandarin
- Chinese, Min
- Chinese, Wu
- Croatian
- Dari
- Dinka
- Georgian
- Gujarati
- Hausa
- Hebrew, Modern
- Hindi
- Igbo
- Indonesian
- Japanese
- Javanese
- Kannada
- Kashmiri
- Kazakh
- Khmer (Cambodian)
- Kirghiz
- Korean
- Kurdish – Kurmanji
- Kurdish – Sorani
- Lao
- Malay (Bahasa Melayu or Malaysian)
- Malayalam
- Marathi
- Mongolian
- Nepali

- Oromo
- Panjabi
- Pashto
- Persian (Farsi)
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Romanian
- Russian
- Serbian
- Sinhala (Sinhalese)
- Somali
- Swahili
- Tagalog
- Tajik
- Tamil
- Telugu
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Tigrigna
- Turkish
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur/Uigur
- Uzbek
- Vietnamese
- Wolof
- Xhosa
- Yoruba
- Zulu

WORLD REGIONS

- Africa
- Central Asia/Inner Asia
- East Asia
- Middle East
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands
- Russia/East Europe
- Western Hemisphere (Canada, Caribbean, Central/South America)

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES

I. U.S. Department of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) highlights the following languages as most vital to our country's future:

Chinese, Mandarin
 Indonesian
 Arabic (all dialects)
 Japanese
 Korean
 Russian

USDA ranks the following world regions as most vital to the future of U.S. agriculture:
 Western Hemisphere (Canada, Caribbean, Central/South America)

East Asia
Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands
Middle East

The Department also notes that although Spanish is commonly taught, broad understanding of Spanish and Western Hemispheric cultures are critical to the success of U.S. agriculture.

II. U.S. Department of Commerce

The U.S. Department of Commerce recommends in rank order, the following languages and world regions associated with these languages:

Mandarin
Arabic
Portuguese
Spanish
Russian
Japanese
Korean
Vietnamese

The Department of Commerce also notes that, “in addition to urgent needs...proficiency in the following languages is desirable”: French, Indonesian, Turkish, German
Commerce ranks the following world regions or countries as areas of importance:

Asia, with specific focus on China, Korea, and Vietnam
Middle East
Latin America, with specific focus on Brazil
Europe, with specific focus on Eastern Europe and Russia
South East Asia, with specific focus on India

III. U.S. Department of Defense

The U.S. Department of Defense “strongly supports the national effort to create a cadre of U.S. citizens with advanced, professional-level skills in languages and cultures that are critical to our national security” and provides the following languages:

Arabic	Hausa
Azerbaijani	Hindi
Amharic	Indonesian
Baluchi	Japanese
Chinese Mandarin	Korean
Dari	Malay
Farsi	Portuguese
French	Russian

Somali
Swahili
Tagalog
Vietnamese

Thai
Turkish
Urdu

Additionally, the Department of Defense recommends the development of more language and regional study programs for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

IV. U.S. Department of Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following languages and world regions as areas of national need:

Languages

Russian
Turkish
French, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese
Arabic, French
German, French, Italian, Spanish
Polish, Bulgarian
Chinese, Japanese, Korean
Hindi, Urdu
Indonesian (Bahasa), Malay,
Thai, Tagalog (Filipino),
Vietnamese
French, Spanish
Spanish
Spanish, Portuguese
Spanish

World Regions

Russia
FSU (non-Europe and others)
Africa
Middle East
Western Europe
Eastern Europe
East Asia
South Asia
Southeast Asia and the Pacific
Islands

North America
Central America
South America
Caribbean

V. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides the following recommendations for expertise in foreign languages:

Arabic
Bahasa
Farsi
French
German
Hindi
Japanese
Korean

Portuguese
Russian
Spanish
Swahili
Thai
Urdu
Vietnamese

VI. U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security “supports the national effort to create a cadre of globally aware and globally responsible Americans with advanced skills in languages and cultures that can facilitate international relations and advance U.S. interest abroad” and recommends the following languages and world regions:

Languages

Arabic	Korean
Bengali	Italian
Chamorro	Malay
Chinese (Mandarin)	Norwegian
Creole	Portuguese
Dutch	Punjabi
Farsi	Russian
French	Sinhala
Gaelic	Spanish
Georgian	Swahili
German	Swedish
Hebrew	Tagalog
Hindi	Tamil
Japanese	Thai
Khmer	Urdu
	Vietnamese

World Regions and Countries

Africa	Israel
Asia	Malaysia
Bering Sea	Mexico
Caribbean	Middle East
Central America	Netherlands
China	Pakistan
India	Singapore
Iran	South America
	South Korea
	Sweden

VII. U.S. Department of Justice

The Federal Bureau of Investigation recommends a national need for expertise in foreign languages and world regions as follows:

Africa, East
Africa, North
Africa, West

Arabian Peninsula
Armenian
Chinese, with linguists able to meet counterintelligence and cyber threats
and with expertise in engineering, science and technology, finance, and law
Dari
Farsi, with linguists having expertise in science and technology
Hebrew
Middle East
Pashto (Pakistani)
Polish
Russian
Somali
Spanish
Turkish
Ukrainian
Uzbek

VIII. U.S. Department of State

The U.S. Department of State has identified the following languages as “critical needs languages” (not noted in rank order):

Arabic (all forms)	Korean
Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)	Kyrgyz
Dari	Nepali
Farsi	Punjabi
Hindi	Kurdish
Urdu	Russian
Pashto	Tajik
Azerbaijani	Turkish
Bengali	Turkmen
Kazakh	Uzbek

IX. U.S. Department of Transportation

The U.S. Department of Transportation recommends the following regions/countries/languages as important to furthering the U.S. international transportation interests:

South America: Brazil
Portuguese

Asia: China
Chinese Mandarin

Middle East: /Iraq/Afghanistan/UAE/Kuwait
Arabic/Kurdish/Oman/Pashto/Dari

X. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recommends the need for expertise in the following languages:

Spanish
Korean
Japanese
Russian
Chinese
German
Native American Languages
Arabic

VA recommends cultural awareness training of various groups including:

Native American tribes
Mexicans
Puerto Ricans
Cubans
Japanese
Koreans
Asians

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