

# We need your support

## The State of World Languages in Florida - a call for ADVOCACY

The coding bill has been re-introduced into the Florida Senate by Senator Brandes from Pinellas County (<https://www.flsenate.gov/senators/s24>)

It is now (2017) SB104, and the details can be found at: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/0104/BillText/Filed/PDF> ;

### **THIS BILL AFFECTS EVERYONE INVOLVED WITH WORLD LANGUAGES IN EDUCATION AND IN BUSINESS...IT WILL AFFECT YOU AND YOUR JOB!**

FFLA is working closely with JNCL (Joint National Committee on Languages) and ACTFL (American Council on Teaching Foreign Languages) to create a plan to better inform the public about the importance of world languages and to raise awareness for advocacy on behalf of WL education, not only in the state of Florida, but across the country.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION TO ALL WL STAKEHOLDERS...friends, family, community leaders far a wide!

1. Visit your local legislator IN PERSON and INFORM them face-to-face how important world language education is to create global citizens. Find information about your local legislators here: <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm?CFID=108005553&CFTOKEN=ef4c33104e873b66-2285CEFC-CE54-B344-E0A3D9A44B066068>

2. You can find data, stats and other helpful resources to share with your legislators at the following links. A very helpful and impressive document to share is the 2023 Florida Employment Projections for World Languages (far exceeds jobs for coding!)

<https://ffla.wildapricot.org/advocacy/>

3. Contact your local college/university WL colleagues, and get them involved informing their institution about the requirement of this bill that they accept computer coding credits in lieu of foreign language credits. This would be disastrous to their programs (and yours!!)

4. Inform your administrators and district leaders of this bill and the consequences it would have aligning with

ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), which will give federal funding to schools that meet the requirements...one of which is a “well-rounded education” to include world languages. A very useful toolkit can be found at: <https://www.actfl.org/advocacy/resources/every-student-succeeds-act-essa>

5. Invite colleagues, parents, administrators, community leaders, legislators to visit your classroom and any special events that you have such as honor society inductions, cultural festivals, special performances, etc. Then, get your local newspaper to cover the event or share it through social media with positive messages about the impact WL education has on the greater good of the world to increase global, intercultural competency (another aspect of ESSA)!

Stay tuned for more in the coming weeks and months via FFLA webinars and other communications. The legislature convenes again in the Spring to vote, so we want to inform them and make them aware NOW! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact FFLA at [ffla.execdir@gmail.com](mailto:ffla.execdir@gmail.com)

**Christine Berg has sent a link to an article about a recent event that they organized to demonstrate why it is essential for students to know a second language.**

**<http://www.rumsonfairhaven.org/12074/12074/>**

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**Advocacy resources from AATF web-site**

**<http://www.frenchteachers.org/hq/advocacy.htm>**

**<https://frenchteachingresources.wikispaces.com/Why+French>**