

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
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## **Statewide World Language Strategy**

Many recent national reports and initiatives have called for increased world language competence and internationalization of education to support economic competitiveness and national security. For Kentucky to respond to this opportunity it must address several challenges to increasing its world language capacity. In 2006, the Kentucky Board of Education cited a shortage of teachers as the reason for not requiring competence in a world language as a high school graduation requirement. The Council of Chief Academic Officers of Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions responded by asking the Council on Postsecondary Education to work with the institutions to develop a comprehensive statewide strategy focused not only on the preparation of P-12 teachers, but on expanding the opportunity for all Kentuckians to learn world languages and become better international citizens.

Kentucky's ability to attract international investment, engage in international tourism events (such as the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games), and compete for homeland security contracts is dependent on development of critical world language programs and the integration of language competence and study abroad opportunities in both the P-12 and postsecondary systems.

Over the last year, the Council has convened a working group on world languages, including representatives from each of Kentucky's postsecondary institutions and from several state-level agencies and associations to develop recommendations supporting (1) an increase in the number of K-12 world language teachers, (2) an increase in the number of world languages taught at the K-12 and postsecondary and professional levels and in the quality of these offerings, and (3) an increase in and coordination of study abroad opportunities at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels. These recommendations and the funding incentives needed to implement them will be finalized by the Council's working group on world languages this fall.