

Nine school districts across the United States were competitively awarded grants by DoDEA to fund the establishment, expansion, or improvement of world languages in their districts.

FY21 World Language Advancement and Readiness Program (WLARP)

September 30, 2021

DoDEA Grant Program

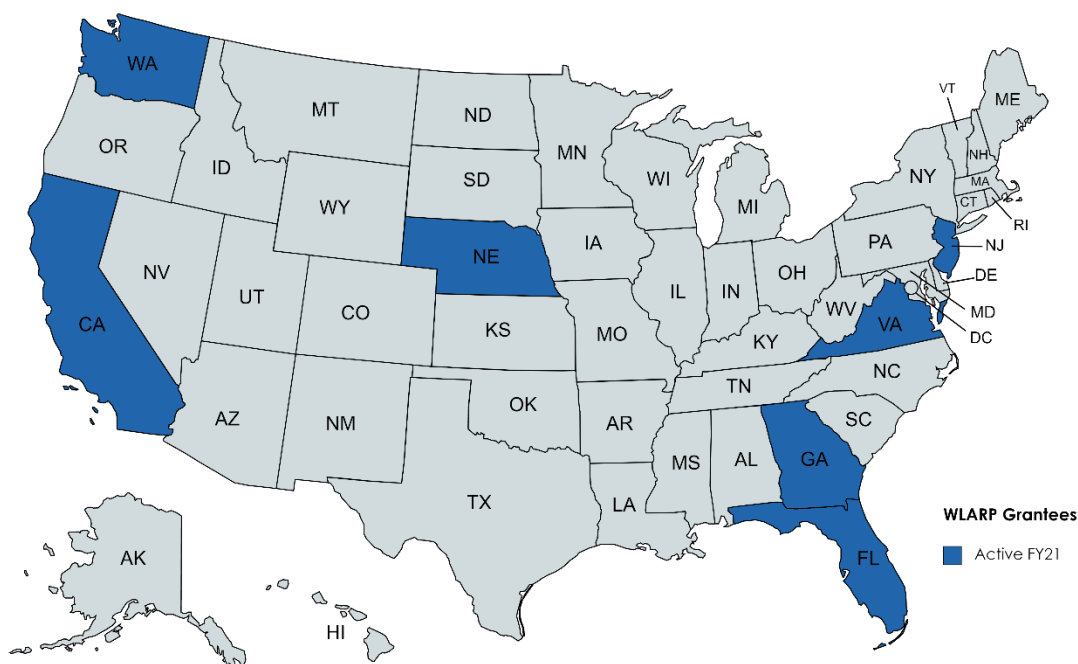
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Overview of the FY21 World Language Advancement and Readiness Program (WLARP)

Through a competitive grant process, the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) sought innovative applications for the establishment, improvement, or expansion of world language programs targeting elementary and secondary students in order to enable successful students, as they advance from elementary school through secondary school, to achieve advanced level of proficiency in those languages. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) awarded a grant under this program must use the funds to support programs that show promise of being continued beyond the grant period and demonstrate approaches that could be disseminated to and duplicated in other LEAs. Awarded projects must also include a professional development component.

For fiscal year (FY) 21, DoDEA awarded nine total WLARP grants, totaling \$19,689,450.00. Each individual grant, ranging from \$1M-\$3M, has a period of performance from September 30, 2021 through May 31, 2026. Each grantee will attend DoDEA's Annual Professional Learning event in November 2021 and subsequently, a monitoring plan for each grant will be designed to ensure success. Languages represented by the awards include American Sign Language, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. The nine school districts are designated on the map below, with Florida and Virginia each having two active FY21 WLARP grants.



Bellevue Public Schools

Location: Bellevue, NE

Military Installation(s) Served: Offutt Air Force Base

Total Funding: \$2,240,521

Project Title: IMPACT-WL: IMProve, Access, Curriculum, Training for World Languages

Languages: French, German, Spanish

Abstract:

Located in Bellevue, Nebraska, Bellevue Public Schools (BPS) submits this proposal for Project IMPACT-WL addressing two focus areas: 1) Improve and expand content-based instruction in French, German, and Spanish, and 2) Implement an exploratory summer program for elementary grade (K-6) students.

Project IMPACT-WL has four overarching objectives: 1) Strengthen alignment of the world language course curriculum to Nebraska's newly released state standards, 2) Expand enrollment in the world languages, 3) Expand opportunities to earn Advanced Placement and college dual credit hours in the world languages, and 4) Establish a world languages exploratory program for elementary grade students. The rationale for Project IMPACT-WL is based in our needs assessment. Analyses of data from the 2019-20 year reveal that 1,667 BPS students enrolled in French, German and Spanish courses starting in 8th grade.

Approximately, 21% of these students were military-connected students, consistent with the average for the district at grades 8 through 12. However, enrollment in the three languages fell off by 369 students in the 2020-21 year, likely due to the impact of the pandemic. Also, enrollment in the upper Levels III, IV and V courses in any year is many fewer than in the entry Level I and II courses. We are especially interested in motivating more students to enroll in the upper-level language courses as we believe that students who complete these courses are more likely to consider post-secondary studies and careers in which proficiency with foreign languages is an asset.

Camden County Board of Education

Location: Kingsland, GA

Military Installation(s) Served: Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base

Total Funding: \$3,000,000

Project Title: PASSPORT: Proficiency in ASL and Spanish for Students through Partnerships, Offerings, Recruitment Strategies, and Technology

Languages: American Sign Language, Spanish

Abstract:

Project Objectives: Our World Language (WL) program, *PASSPORT (Proficiency in ASL and Spanish for Students through Partnerships, Offerings, Recruitment strategies, and Technology)*, will produce WL proficient students.

Project Activities: K-12 Continuum: age-appropriate, proficiency-based instruction beginning in Grade 1 in Spanish and American Sign Language; beginning in middle school with French, German, Portuguese, Latin, Chinese, and Japanese. Students will earn up to two WL credits in middle school, setting students on a trajectory to complete a Level V course in 11th grade.

Interpreter Certification: In 12th grade, students passing the AP or other WL proficiency exam will be eligible to complete an Interpreter Certification Program provided by the University of Georgia (UGA).

Professional Learning: focus on curriculum development that links language, culture, and relevant content so students develop advanced proficiency and cross-cultural competencies.

Location: Camden County Schools, located in rural southeastern Georgia, serves 9,123 students in grades K-12. Our county's largest employer is the **Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base**. Our ten target schools include: Crooked River, David L. Rainer, Kingsland, Mamie Lou Gross, Mary Lee Clark, Matilda Harris, St. Mary's, and Sugarmill Elementary Schools, Camden Middle School, and Camden High School, with an average of 25.8% military dependent.

Expected Outcome(s): Our objectives include increased: 1) student access to engaging and challenging WL curriculum; 2) WL proficiency levels; and 3) teacher access to resources and professional learning in WL instruction.

Proposed Rationale/Impact: *PASSPORT* will promote development of a future bilingual workforce in critical need areas including the military and teaching professions.

Clover Park School District

Location: Lakewood, WA

Military Installation(s) Served: Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Total Funding: \$3,000,000

Project Title: World Language Advancement & Readiness

Languages: Spanish, Japanese, French, German, Mandarin Chinese

Abstract:

Clover Park School District's grant project, World Language Advancement and Readiness, involves building on existing world language programming in ways that provide early opportunities for young students to engage in world language, honor the languages of heritage speakers, leverage technology as a tool for greater access and advancement, and create a robust vertical pipeline of opportunities for all students to reach proficiency in a variety of languages.

Coronado Unified School District

Location: Coronado, CA

Military Installation(s) Served: Naval Base Coronado

Total Funding: \$2,342,517.68

Project Title: Project World Language Plus (WL+)

Languages: Spanish, French, American Sign Language

Abstract:

Coronado Unified School District is a preschool through 12th grade district serving Naval Base Coronado. Student enrollment is 3,101; 41% of the students are military dependent. The goal of Project World Language Plus (WL+) is to establish, expand, and improve world language study for military-connected grade TK-12 students in world language skills and cultural knowledge capability and capacity.

Project WL+ will establish a world language TK-12 pathway in order to graduate students who are globally competent and equipped with proficient world language skills. At the elementary level, a weekly Spanish exposure program will be established, with expanding opportunities for students as they enter middle and high school. Implementation involves hiring world language teachers; purchasing authentic Spanish and French language classroom libraries/curriculum; providing professional development, initiating the Avant STAMP 4S assessment system; exploring opportunities such as dual enrollment and real-world language experiences; and increasing stakeholder engagement. The expected outcomes of Project WL+ are increased motivation of military connected students to enroll in world language courses at the secondary level and ultimately earn the State Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation.

Escambia County School District

Location: Pensacola, FL

Military Installation(s) Served: NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field AFB

Total Funding: \$3,000,000

Project Title: The Knowing and Embracing World Languages (KEWL) Project

Languages: Mandarin Chinese, American Sign Language, Spanish, French, Japanese

Abstract:

The Knowing and Embracing World Languages (KEWL) Project develops learners as biliterate world language experts in the Escambia County School District (FL) by expanding both the breadth and depth of language pathways for students in grades K-12 at fourteen military-connected schools. Formalizing language exposure and exploration in grades K-5 will ignite elementary school students' interest in future world language study. Accelerating early access to high school language courses for students in grades 6-8 will establish early language acquisition opportunities that pave the way to greater language fluency in secondary and post-secondary environments. At targeted high schools, adding advanced and college-level language courses and broadening the variety of world language courses currently offered will increase student biliteracy in grades 9-12.

Hillsborough County Public Schools

Location: Tampa, FL

Military Installation(s) Served: MacDill Air Force Base

Total Funding: \$1,655,948

Project Title: Bridge to Bi-literacy

Languages: Spanish, World Languages Humanities for International Studies

Abstract:

Hillsborough County is economically, ethnically, and linguistically diverse, with 30% of families speaking a language other than English. Serving families in this region is Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS), the seventh largest school district in the nation. Within the confines of Hillsborough County lies MacDill Air Force Base. MacDill includes 28 associate units from all branches of service. As such, 88% of district schools have at least one military-connected family.

A number of schools serving high concentrations of military-connected students provide little or no access to World Languages learning opportunities; this is the case at seven schools targeted for the project. *Bridge to Bi-literacy* will include two main components: an elementary level Spanish language immersion program and World Languages course offering enhancements in secondary schools.

The project objectives are to increase the number of Spanish language learning opportunities and to bolster the rigor of offerings to better develop students' language proficiency. Key activities include providing high-quality professional development; executing an elementary immersion model with at least 50% of course content delivered in Spanish; creating and offering new rigorous coursework at the secondary school level; and offering a Summer Immersion Camp.

Project outcomes include: teachers will be prepared to implement the program, as measured by self-reported skill and confidence levels; 60% or more of elementary immersion students will show at least typical or moderate growth in their Spanish language proficiency; and 60% or more of secondary students will score an 'A' or 'B' on semester exams for *Bridge to Bi-literacy* courses.

Newport News Public Schools

Location: Newport News, VA

Military Installation(s) Served: Joint Base Langley-Eustis

Total Funding: \$1,689,463.54

Project Title: Bilingual, Biliterate, Bicultural Pathways to Global Citizenship for Military-Connected Students

Language: Spanish

Abstract:

As a Refugee Resettlement Community, Newport News, Va., has seen tremendous growth in the number of English learners in the past 10 years. Learning a foreign language in Newport News Public Schools not only opens our students up to wider opportunities in the future, but it improves the quality of communication across our whole community. Focusing on pre-K through 5th grade, we will expand our Spanish Dual Language Immersion program to two additional schools (pre-K, K-5) for increased military-connected accessibility. This project includes two school locations: Denbigh Early Childhood Center and Lee Hall Elementary. Students at an additional three elementary schools in shadow zones will have access to the program: Epes Elementary, General Stanford Elementary, and Greenwood Elementary. Professional Learning will increase knowledge and skills of teachers and administrators in a 50/50 Dual Language model and will reinforce curriculum best practices. A successful program will show student growth in Spanish language literacy. This program will add a new grade level each year, reaching PreK-3 by 2026, but will continue until grade 12 is reached in school year 2034-2035.

North Hanover Township School District

Location: Wrightstown, NJ

Military Installation(s) Served: Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst

Total Funding: \$1,700,000

Project Title: Horizons Expanding through Language Learning Opportunities (H.E.L.L.O.)

Languages: Spanish, Chinese, French

Abstract:

Project H.E.L.L.O. is a language expansion project for K-6 students in North Hanover Township School District, NJ, serving the military-connected children of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. With foreign language agility considered a critical national security need, the project is designed to promote positive attitudes toward the study of foreign languages. Student proficiency will be enhanced by increasing time, frequency and intensity of Spanish language instruction, utilizing developmentally appropriate supplemental electronic curricula to make connections and engage students in fun, language-based activities within their regular classroom.

With a proficiency target of Novice-mid or higher by fifth grade, clear benchmarks will be established and assessed at every grade, culminating in a performance based, developmentally appropriate language proficiency assessment for all fifth graders. Students then opt to continue Spanish or study Chinese or French in sixth grade via distance learning. This aligns with the language offerings at the receiving middle school.

Project H.E.L.L.O. also provides full, unlimited access to a self-directed language learning platform to increase student time spent practicing, as well as offer families the opportunity to learn alongside their children.

Project H.E.L.L.O. emphasizes connections between language and culture, bringing culture to life through immersive summer experiences, extracurricular family events and partnerships with language clubs in the receiving high school and cultural organizations on JB-MDL. Students leave sixth grade with positive perceptions of language learning and their ability to learn languages. The totality of these experiences prepares students to advance their study of languages by making it accessible, relevant, connected, and celebrated.

Virginia Beach City Public Schools

Location: Virginia Beach, VA

Military Installation(s) Served: Oceana Naval Air Station, Dam Neck Naval Annex, Norfolk Naval Station, Camp Pendleton, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek/Fort Story, and Medical Center Portsmouth

Total Funding: \$1,061,000

Project Title: VBCPS Spanish Immersion Expansion

Language: Spanish

Abstract:

The VBCPS Spanish Immersion Expansion project will: 1) expand the existing one-way dual language immersion program to include two-way dual language immersion and 2) improve student proficiency in Spanish in the four communicative competencies: reading, writing, listening, and speaking and 3) increase student enrollment in middle school immersion transition programs. This proposal represents the commitment of our division in supporting military-connected students to achieve an advanced level of proficiency in language by expanding our current Spanish Immersion program.