



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.

Title:	Student Presentation	
As Related To:	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal One: Develop and support policies to close the achievement and opportunity gaps.	<input type="checkbox"/> Goal Three: Ensure that every student has the opportunity to meet career and college ready standards.
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Relevant To Board Roles:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> System Oversight <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication <input type="checkbox"/> Convening and Facilitating
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Materials Included in Packet:	<input type="checkbox"/> Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Graphs / Graphics <input type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Materials <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint	
Synopsis:	Student presentations allow SBE board members an opportunity to explore the unique perspectives of their younger colleagues. Student Representative Baxter Hershman will present on world language early learning from a student's perspective.	



World Language in Early Education

By Baxter Hershman



Student Update

Senior year

College applications

Closing out my last season of football

Planning senior trip

I will be applying for a job this coming winter

Numb to the “Plans for next year?” questions

Realizing how little time is left



World Language in Washington

Common Practices in our state

Little exposure to world language prior to high school

New requirements create room for these classes to be taken

Gives students understanding but not mastery of the language

[The Best Age to Learn a Second Language](#)

World Language Around The World

Majority of European countries require foreign language studies

Starting as early as age three

Sometimes requiring more than one language

Students have mastery of the language and gain awareness of other cultures

[Learning a Foreign Language a 'Must' in Europe, Not So In America](#)

Foreign Language Study Requirements in Europe

Students required to study ___ foreign language(s)

- 1
- 2
- No foreign language requirement



The Problem With Our System

We teach kids at
too old of an age

Students have a harder time
learning a second language later
in life

Why It Is Easier the Younger You Are

Learning languages is part of a young child's brain chemistry

Foreign language education is simplified

Similar to any subject, you learn the basics first which are easier to master

Children are less self-conscious

[Learning a Second Language Is Easier for Children, But Why?](#)

The Science Behind It

There is a critical time for language learning

This period begins to diminish as early as 11 months of age but lasts until age 7

As you learn your first language it becomes harder to learn another

Your brain recognizes patterns of one and disregards another

[Unraveling How Kids Become Bilingual So Easily](#)

Personal Experience Timeline

Age 3 through 6

Enrolled in a private school that required Spanish class everyday

Age 7 through 9

Private tutoring with a variety of teachers

Age 10 through 13

No foreign language education

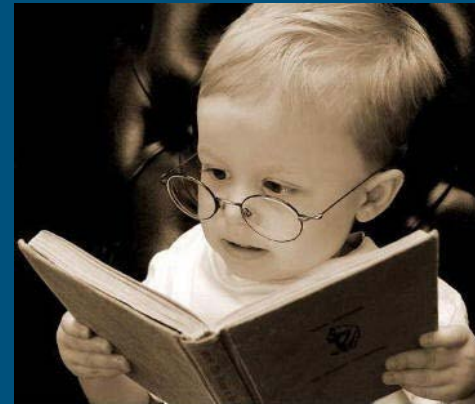
Age 14 through present day

I have been enrolled in Spanish classes ever since

Personal Benefits of Early World Language Education

Why It Is Necessary

Students who learn second languages at an early age are less likely to be distracted by outside stimuli



[Learning a Second Language Is Good Childhood Mind Medicine, Studies Find](#)

Why It Is Necessary Cont.

Provides a widened perspective of the world

Instills empathy for other cultures



differences o



Why It Is Necessary Cont.

Culture is taught along with the language

Shows how people around the world live

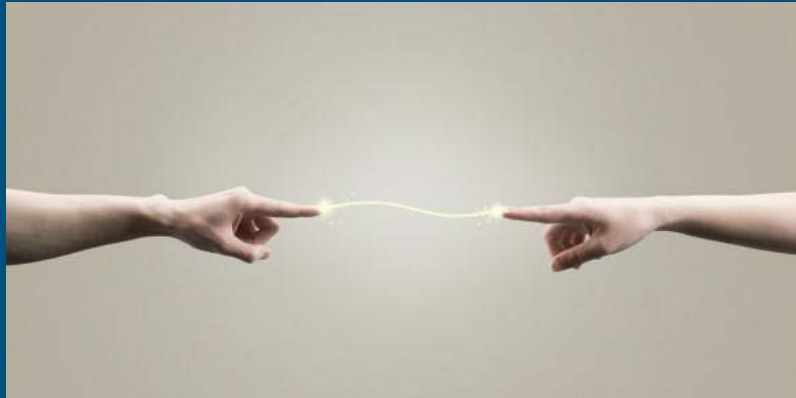
Some of the most profound learning experiences come from studying cultures



Why It Is Necessary Cont.

Students are able to create personal connections through the use of a second language

Able to have experiences that otherwise would not have existed



Why It Is Necessary Cont.

Economic advantages to knowing a second language

Employees that can speak more than one language are seen as valuable to many employers

Speaking more than one language increases the likelihood of earning more money

[Do Multilingual Individuals Earn More Money?](#)



138 Million

The number of Spanish speakers estimated to live in the U.S. by the year 2050

Nearly one third of the U.S. population

[US Now Has More Spanish Speakers Than Spain - Only Mexico Has More](#)

Practical Board Applications

Advocate for early world language education

Show best practices

Conclusion

Students should be taught world language at early ages

Gives students opportunities

Sets them up for success

Our current system does not allow for true mastery of foreign languages

We are behind the rest of the world

Thank You



Questions?

