

Report – Virginia Department of Education FLAVA Board Meeting

February 12, 2011

The Department of Education (DOE) has received at least one proposal to host each of the Governor's Foreign Language Academies in French, German, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish. An evaluation team is now reviewing the proposals and will make recommendations. I cannot announce locations and program dates until we have contracts in place; however, it looks as if the dates will be similar to past years and all of the programs should end on/by July 17. Final dates and locations will be announced as soon as possible via our Governor's Foreign Language Academy Web pages, a Superintendent's Memorandum, and e-mail to all division foreign language contacts, gifted education coordinators, and anyone else I can think of.

Virginia Commonwealth University will be operating STARTALK Academies in Arabic, Chinese, and Russian this summer. The residential programs will operate from June 26 through July 16, 2011. For information, visit <http://www.has.vcu.edu/wld/academies/>. Virginia has been the site of a number of summer STARTALK programs over the past several years, most of which will likely continue. A list of programs for 2011 will be available by the end of March from the STARTALK Web site at <http://startalk.umd.edu/>. The Web site also includes a wealth of teacher professional development videos and materials focusing on currently accepted best practices in language teaching.

The Department of Education recently welcomed a visiting delegation from the Académie de Reims, a large regional school district in northeastern France. Delegation members visited schools in the Richmond and northern Virginia areas and met with school leadership to discuss the establishment of school to school partnerships. The Department of Education is now developing a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the school partnership process. Schools interested in applying for a partner school in France may submit an application at anytime to the Cultural Services of the French Embassy. Information and applications are available at <http://www.frenchculture.org/> under the tab for Education (Primary & Secondary).

The Department of Education also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Education of Spain, to allow visiting guest teachers from Spain and various cooperative projects. For information about various programs available through the education office, please visit the Web site at <http://www.mepsyd.es/exterior/usa/en/home/index.shtml>.

For more information, please contact:

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