

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIP ACT**  
**H.R. 1966 in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, to be introduced in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress by Rep.**  
**Rush Holt (NJ-12) and Senator Lautenberg (NJ)**

**Bill Summary:**

- The bill amends the Foreign Language Assistance Program in NCLB-Title V to create a new K-12/higher education foreign language education partnership program.
- The legislation was developed in wide consultation with the K-12 and higher education foreign language communities, and represents a consensus on what new federal program is needed to improve foreign language education in grades K-12.
- The new legislation would provide incentives for creating and maintaining model programs of articulated, sequenced foreign language instruction from K-12, with the goal of graduating high school students with an advanced level of proficiency.
- Model programs must also include activities to expand understanding and knowledge of the historic, geographic, cultural, economic and other contextual factors of countries where the foreign language is spoken.
- Eligible partners include local and/or state education agencies and institutions of higher education, and may include businesses and nonprofit organizations.
- Any foreign language is eligible, but the Secretary of Education may establish priorities on languages critical to national needs.
- Grants may be provided initially for four years, and if success is demonstrated, may be followed by two additional 5-year grants.
- The first two years of an initial four-year grant may be used for planning and development for languages critical to national needs for which there are shortages of teachers, curriculum materials, and language assessments.
- Target proficiency levels must be identified and assessed at critical benchmarks.
- Program design and teaching strategies must be informed by best practices recognized by the foreign language field and available research.
- Funds may be used for a variety of activities, including, among others, the development of curriculum materials, in-service and pre-service teacher development, teacher recruitment, development or improvement of language assessments for K-12, study abroad and immersion opportunities for grades 9-12, and community involvement including heritage populations.
- Research and evaluation must be built into the model program, and data collected made available to the Secretary of Education and the public.
- Information on successful programs and practices will be widely disseminated by the Secretary of Education.
- \$50 million is authorized in the first fiscal year, and such sums for each succeeding fiscal year.