

## Sample Elementary/Secondary News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **[Name of School] PLANS EVENTS FOR 2005: *THE YEAR OF LANGUAGES***

**[Date, your city, your state]** — Some very important changes are taking place in communities across America, changes that reflect our growing interaction with people and cultures throughout the world. As a result, students and faculty in the **[number]** language education programs at **[your school]** are making plans for their participation in the nationwide celebration of **2005: *The Year of Languages***. Among the special activities scheduled are **[name/time/date/place of events open to the public]**.

A Resolution before the U.S. Senate establishes 2005 as the Year of Languages in recognition of the critical educational, social, cultural and economic benefits that result when Americans gain proficiency in other languages. This year-long celebration will be take place in communities all over America and will encourage young and adult learners alike to embrace language study as a key to both personal satisfaction and career enhancement.

“We’re excited about bringing the message of language learning to our students and to their parents as well,” said **[name]**, Principal of **[school]**. “We have a number of people in **[community]** from other countries for whom English is a second language. Being able to converse with them in their native tongues will help us be better friends and neighbors and will help us learn more about other cultures and their literature.”

A wealth of research conducted in recent years supports the benefits of an early start and long sequence of language study. For example, studies show that a child’s ability to assimilate languages is greatest between birth and age 6. One focus of the Year of Languages initiative is to promote early language learning that begins in our elementary schools. This results in students better prepared to achieve the highest level of proficiency.

“That’s a very important message that we’ll be delivering,” said Keith Cothrun, Past President of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). “We have a wonderful opportunity to make learning other languages as natural as learning English for our youngest students. We simply cannot let this opportunity pass.” ACTFL, its affiliated organizations and schools and communities across the United States are spearheading ***The Year of Languages*** initiative. **For more information on The Year of Languages, go to [www.yearoflanguages.org](http://www.yearoflanguages.org) OR visit the ACTFL web site at [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org) OR call ACTFL at 703-894-2900.**

In addition to the special events planned at **[your school]**, the school will make available a variety of informational materials that explain the lifelong value of language learning for young people and adults alike. For those who want to be best prepared for life beyond the classroom, teachers and guidance counselors will be prepared to discuss the wealth of career opportunities that are greatly enhanced by proficiency in multiple languages.

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