TEACHING World Languages

Ohio | Department of Education

OFLA

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American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

World language teachers:

- Share their knowledge and passion for languages and culture;
- Prepare students to compete in a global economy;
- Help students gain a greater perspective of the U.S. and the world; and
- Expand students' knowledge about both the target language and their heritage languages.

Where is financial aid available?

- Academic Competitiveness Grants for eligible first-year and second-year college students.
- National SMART Grants for eligible third- and fourth-year students.
- Federal Perkins Loans for each year of undergraduate study.
- Scholarships from universities and organizations.

Are there jobs?

Ohio continues to experience a shortage of qualified world language teachers. As experienced teachers reach retirement, the number of open positions will only increase.

What do I need to teach in Ohio?

- Undergraduate major in a language.
- Study in other countries to build advanced language proficiency.
- Degree and internship requirements for securing an Ohio teaching license.
- Licensure through one of Ohio's teacher preparation programs or the Alternative Resident Educational Licensure Pathway.
- Passing score on required Ohio tests through above licensure programs.
- World experience such as the Peace Corps (www.peacecorps.gov) or other nonprofit organization in order to gain in-country experience, hone language skills and develop intercultural competence.

What surprised you about teaching? What is the best part?

"I never expected to feel good every day about what students learn from me... and what I learn from them!"
— Judy McCombs, Columbus Spanish Immersion Academy

"Seeing the students' faces light up when they understand. And that they were able to speak and understand the language with native speakers." **— Françoise More, Kings Junior High and High Schools, Kings Mills**

"The best part is seeing my students communicate freely, yet in a manner that is expected in Chinese culture." **— Shasha Gibbs, Medina High School**

"There's so many 'best parts' about teaching a world language. I love when students are interested in learning about what it's like in another country." **— Kimberly Young, Delaware City Schools**

What benefits are there in teaching?

- Work benefits may include health insurance, retirement programs and merit-based salary increases.
- "On-the-job" opportunities for professional growth.
- Development of sought-after skills such as clear communication, strong interpersonal skills and language proficiency.
- Opportunities for summer travel/work abroad during academic recess;
- Invitations to host foreign dignitaries, sports figures and academics visiting local communities.
- Involvement in community projects related to other cultures, such as consulting on interpreting and translating, media, health and legal issues.
- The sense of satisfaction that teaching languages to students increases U.S. economic, security, political and social capabilities worldwide.

Why should you teach a world language?

"When I was in ninth grade, my French teacher had just returned from an exchange where she taught in Belgium and traveled around France. The stories she told opened the world to me and I thought: That's what I want to do too!

Carol Eiber, Stow-Munroe Falls High School

Where is support?

Ohio Department of Education
education.ohio.gov
(Enter World Languages in search box)

Ohio Foreign Language Association (OLFA)
www.ofla-online.org

Questions?

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