

LIFT – *Language Initiative for Future Talent*

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Sponsor(s):

WHEREAS, The goal of Cal-GETC is to streamline the transfer process to four-year institutions, the passing of AB 928 (Berman) has prompted the removal of foreign language courses—and ESL courses— from lower division general education pathways as outlined by ICAS in section 9.3.3 and 9.3.4 of the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) for area 3B Humanities; with the exception of foreign language courses that “include substantial literary or cultural aspects” [1];

WHEREAS, Records from the SSSCC indicate that no resolutions regarding language courses have been passed since 2006, there is a clear need to reevaluate commitment to linguistic representation, language study, and workforce readiness; this initiative is aligned with the Student Senate for California Community Colleges’ goal of equity

WHEREAS, The Modern Language Association has identified language enrollment rates by institutional level, two-year institutions do not receive sufficient Title VI funding to maintain current programs [2] [3]; and

WHEREAS, proficiency in languages other than English is an essential skill in a workforce-based economy—especially for medical and teaching professions— increasing demand for foreign language proficiency with a shortage in foreign language courses results in skill gaps in the workforce; there is a lack of language courses for workforce preparedness [4] [5]; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the SSSCC make it a priority to advocate for the continuation and expansion of foreign language courses across the CCC system;

RESOLVED, That the SSSCC strongly recommend and urge the California Community Colleges to offer a minimum of the two (2) most popular foreign languages in the county of each community college—determined by county census data— to be offered at each CCC;

RESOLVED, That the SSSCC collaborate with the Community College League of California in creating a committee dedicated to actively identifying strategies to minimize financial strain on California community colleges to fund and maintain foreign language courses; and

RESOLVED, That the SSSCC collaborate with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) to simplify the process of hiring language faculty—pursuant to California Education Code § 80089.2 — draft a legislative toolkit regarding student language education for workplace readiness, and provide continual guidance for language faculty instruction

Citations:

[1] The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates. *Cal-GETC STANDARDS Version 1.1*. 2023,

icas-ca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Cal-GETC_Standards_1v1_2023.pdf#page27.

[2] *New MLA Report Highlights The Need For Investment In Language Study*. report, Modern Language Association, 15 Nov. 2023. *Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in United States Institutions of Higher Education, Fall 2021*,

www.mla.org/content/download/191329/file/2021-Enrollment-Press-Release.pdf.

[3] “Enrollments in Languages Other Than English in US Institutions of Higher Education Fall-2021.” *Modern Language Association*, 2023,

www.mla.org/content/download/191324/file/Enrollments-in-Languages-Other-Than-English-in-US-Institutions-of-Higher-Education-Fall-2021.pdf.

[4] Admin. “US Employers Recognize the Need for Foreign Language Proficiency.” *International Center for Language Studies*, Aug. 2024,

www.icls.edu/blog/us-employers-recognize-the-need-for-foreign-language-proficiency.

[5] *California Code*, EDC 88600.

leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&ionNum=88600.