What is a “State Supervisor” for languages?

A state supervisor, specialist or consultant is someone employed by a state department of education or public instruction with responsibilities related to world languages. This person may perform one or more of the following duties, dependent on governmental structures and positions within each state department of education.

- Provide leadership and coordinate development and implementation of world language frameworks, programs of studies, standards, performance descriptions, benchmarks, performance tasks, assessment initiatives, LinguaFolio and other.
- Plan and deliver high-quality professional development opportunities in world languages and/or international education for K-12 classroom teachers, administrators, and specialists.
- Direct international education initiatives.
- Initiate and implement memoranda of understanding with ministries of education of other countries (may include interviewing, selecting, securing visas for, and providing orientation to visiting or volunteer teachers).
- Serve as liaison to local, state, national, and international businesses, professional groups, government bodies, institutions of higher education and other community partners.
- Write and implement federal or state grants and coordinate partnership activities on grants awarded to school districts (LEAs), postsecondary institutions or others.
- Identify research and best practices in world languages and international education.
- Advise and participate in the development of world language courses and professional development sessions provided online or through the state educational television network.
- Serve on statewide teams or general education projects that are state education agency (SEA) priorities.
- Provide technical assistance to schools (e.g., help design new world language programs in elementary schools; provide professional development; report on data).
- Provide technical assistance to the state legislature in the form of bill reviews, research, testimony, etc., and represent the SEA in state legislative bodies within the range of world language issues.
- Support the activities of the State Board of Education by analyzing, synthesizing and summarizing public testimony on world languages and international education as requested. Prepare draft responses for presentation to the State Board of Education.
Act in an advisory capacity for teacher licensing, advanced placement programs, school foreign exchange programs, course coding, best practices, teacher certification, graduation requirements, and other world language and international education-related issues.

Serve as liaison to statewide world language professional associations and attend state, regional and national language conferences.

Serve on state textbook advisory boards.

Serve as a resource person in world languages and international education for other SEA initiatives including, but not limited to, teacher certification, facilities design, and the higher education approval process; work collaboratively with all branches of the SEA to support various educational initiatives.

Advise SEA officials of national trends in world languages and international education (e.g., measuring student achievement in world languages, strategies for overcoming obstacles to systemic reform and innovation.).