

What is the role of 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 K-12 world language education. 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, implementation and periodic revision of world language standards, frameworks, programs of studies, proficiency targets, performance descriptions, benchmarks, performance tasks, assessment initiatives, LinguaFolio and other essential resources.
- 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, which may include interviewing, selecting, securing visas for, and providing orientation to visiting or volunteer teachers.
- Create policies and programs to promote educator and student exchange for the purposes of cross-cultural exchange, professional development and immersive language learning among others.
- 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 current research and best practices in world language 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.
- Provide focused support to world language educators engaged in the development of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and the measurement of student growth for a variety of purposes including the evaluation of educator effectiveness.
- 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; advise on curricular matters, report on data).
- Implement and coordinate state-level dual language immersion initiatives. Create networks to support the work of immersion educators and administrators.
- Oversee the implementation of state-led Seal of Biliteracy initiatives.
- 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 use by the State Board of Education.
- Shepherd learning standards and other SEA produced resources through the State Board of Education vetting process for approval or adoption.
- Act in an advisory capacity for teacher licensing and/or certification, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs, school foreign exchange programs, course coding, best practices, graduation requirements, and other world language and international education-related issues.
- Serve as liaison to statewide world language professional associations.
- Attend and present at 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, technological innovation, seals of biliteracy, research-based best practices, etc.).