



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State's greatest strength is its diversity of people and, as home to a thriving multicultural population, it is important for today's students to have opportunities to become bilingual or multilingual; and

Whereas, the observance of *National Foreign Language Week* highlights the benefits of foreign language programs and encourages all American youth to broaden their horizons and scope of worldly knowledge by learning a second language so they can better understand and communicate with people of other nationalities and nations; and

Whereas, more than ever, the individuals who make up our workforce need stronger language skills in order to interact with the rest of the world in commerce, diplomacy, science and cultural exchanges, and since New York State has an ever expanding role in the global marketplace – with many jobs directly related to global exporting, tourism and international trade – the state's business community needs employees who are proficient in languages other than English; and

Whereas, learning one or more languages, in addition to English, is a core part of a strong educational program that helps prepare students for living in a multicultural, multi-lingual world, and reinforces learning in other subject areas; and

Whereas, beginning language study early – and allowing for its continued study in extended instructional sequences – provides the best opportunities for students to achieve meaningful proficiency and success in learning another language, and New York State's educational system plays a vital role in supporting foreign language study, whereby most school districts currently offer academic programs that include foreign language study; and

Whereas, the foreign language classroom is the venue where language and culture are intertwined and students gain new levels of appreciation and awareness of the worldwide community, enabling them to communicate and build successful relationships with people from other cultures and countries; and

Whereas, I join to commend teachers of foreign languages and students who embark on this great global adventure, and furthermore acknowledge those who promote school language programs so that today's youth can increase their future potential through the ability to speak, understand, read and write in other languages;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 3-9, 2008 as

FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-second
day of January in the year two thousand eight.

Governor

Richard Barron
Secretary to the Governor