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Reading Reflection #4

Language is at its core a form of communication with other human beings. We find it to be thus appropriate for daily life and necessary for functionality. The National Council of State Supervisors for Language believe that it is necessary for more, and it is necessary for students to expand communication beyond their first language. This organization advocates particularly for “the inclusion of foreign language education in the school curriculum for ALL students, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve and beyond (Foreign Language Education). This organization believes it is necessary to implement foreign and secondary language skills for students to progress globally and to benefit from the communication skills.

“The United States must educate students who are equipped linguistically and culturally to communicate successfully in a pluralistic American society and abroad. This imperative envisions a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language...” (Foreign Language Education). The piece from their website goes on to explain that today’s society is becoming increasingly multilingual, and with this in mind, children need to be prepared with the skills to communicate in such an environment. It is beginning to be not enough for this group, to have students fluent in English, but also proficient in another language.

According to the College Entrance Examination Board, “what college entrants need to know and be able to do in each subject area are presented also...[such as] foreign language” (Academic Preparation for College). This is one of the sites referenced by the website, and it points out the later requirements by higher education (education beyond the public system requirements) to have some basic skills in speaking, writing and reading a foreign language. Considering the high expectation of high school graduates to become college graduates, the necessity for second language skills rises, as early learning would help students to benefit early on, rather than learning shortly before graduating from the 12th year of required schooling.

Currently, the “educational reform report calls for preparing every student for higher education, foreign language is an essential and indispensable element of this vision” which as stated before makes it a more necessary effort. Affording secondary language education to students gives the students better opportunities towards higher education, in a society where it is becoming increasingly more necessary to obtain higher education to be successful in a profession.

Part of the National Council of State Supervisors for Language’s statement explains that today’s society is increasing in its diversity, increasing the numbers of multilingual and multiethnic students. They go on with the sentiment held that we should be embracing this as a diverse culture, seizing the opportunity to expand schooling for all children, to incorporate more secondary language and communication skills into their lives. This could possibly be a healthier option than to immerse all students of all backgrounds and ethnicities into one frame of mind, with one language that is only partially accepted globally and with one culture that is not accepted globally.

Successful teachers have linked “context, content and process as an organizing principle” in such a way that connects the students to the material in a personal manner (Foreign Language Education). This means that the organization does not simply encourage the implementation of secondary language learning, but its implementation in a format differing from how it might otherwise be implemented as a mere subject of study. In this manner, they expect some reform of education, so that students may have a quality learning experience with foreign language and communicational skills.

Work Cited

Foreign Language Education For ALL Students - National Council of State Supervisors for

Languages. (n.d.). Retrieved September 19, 2015.

Academic Preparation for College. What Students Need to Know and Be Able to Do. (n.d.).

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