

New MEA Resolution # 2

Title: Multiple World Language Education

Submitted by: **Delegate's Name:** Jennifer Shelito, Region 11
 Delegate's Email: jenshelito@gmail.com
 Delegate's Phone #: 810-334-9180

Representing MEA Local/Region: MEA Resolutions Committee

Text of proposal:

The Michigan Education Association believes that the acquisition of multiple world languages is a vital part of the educational experience and that those who leave school speaking more than one language will be more competitive in the global marketplace. The Association also believes that the cumulative hours of exposure to the target language during a student's educational career is the most important determinant leading to fluency and proficiency in a second language. Students should have the opportunity to acquire age-appropriate world language skills from an integrated curriculum throughout the pre-K through higher education experience.

The Association further believes that Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs in public schools are evidence-based, educationally sound approaches that not only enable students to become fully bilingual and biliterate, but also cultivate cross-cultural empathy, global awareness, and cognitive development. DLI programs represent an alternative to traditional world language instruction. The Association believes that there should be robust and equitable public investment in the creation, expansion, and sustainability of DLI programs in all communities. Schools should be provided with the resources to train and retain qualified bilingual educators and to develop culturally relevant, standards-aligned curricula.

The Association also believes that educational software may be used to improve or enhance the effectiveness of teacher instruction as a supplementary resource and must not be used to supplant teacher instruction.

The Association supports the maintenance of current programs and the further encouragement and development of world language instruction and international studies at all educational levels.

The Association recognizes the need for teacher preparation programs for world language teachers and supports teacher and student exchange programs.

Rationale:

The Michigan Education Association's Resolutions document does not adequately address multiple world language. This resolution would replace the current foreign language resolution. The above language was adopted by the National Education Association at the 2025 RA.