



American Association of Teachers of French Rhode Island

President, Michael HEBERT

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Dear School Guidance Counselor,

I would like to take this opportunity in writing to tell you about the invaluable advantages of advising the choice of **French** as a foreign language to your college bound students. This letter is, of course for reasons of advocacy as there seems to be some misconceptions in Rhode Island secondary schools with respect to the study of French.

On behalf of the many teachers and students of French in Rhode Island, I respectfully ask that you take a look at some facts about the study of French that may just influence you to form, perhaps, a new point of view to help you better advise your students.

As you may be aware, the French language, not simply the official language of France, is the only language spoken on all continents, and is an important language in **68 countries** around the world. Here in Rhode Island, there are many French-owned enterprises including **American Power Conversion**. For the first time since the 1960's, American students are engaging themselves at universities at a significant rate to study languages along with other majors. More and more universities are requiring two, if not three or four years of foreign language study as prerequisites for admission. At our own **University of Rhode Island**, foreign language study is at a rate of 71% of the student population, far exceeding the national average of 41%. The most popular language of choice? French.

Achieve **better test scores** with the help of one subject— Français!

More than 50% of modern-day English words trace their origins to French, so students can quickly learn the language and use the similarities to excel on standardized tests like the **SAT**. French also enhances **a student's critical thinking, creative thinking and problem solving skills**, which enhances their abilities in other subjects like English, math and science. ◇

It goes without saying that tomorrow's graduates must have the skills to function well in our ever interconnected world. As the **second most influential language after English**, French would be an obvious choice for graduates entering into the **world economy**. Whether students are planning to go directly in the workforce or onto to college, they would benefit from learning this "world" language. ◇

If you would like to know more about the advantages of having students taking French as their foreign language elective, I would be happy to speak with you as well as your school's teachers of French.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Michael HEBERT
President, AATFRI