

ASU helps Burke foreign languages

Written by

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A \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education will soon allow public school students in Burke County to expand their foreign language options.

Matching funds from Appalachian State University and Burke County Public Schools brings the budget for the three-year project to more than \$1 million.

ASU professors will collaborate with Burke teachers to enhance the existing Spanish program and help the school system expand its offerings in French and German, putting those languages on par with current offerings in Spanish. The grant will eventually extend foreign language instruction in all three languages into the county's elementary schools.

To support the project, Appalachian is hosting a summer foreign language institute for foreign language teachers from 2008-2010 to help them work on the county's curriculum and learn new teaching and assessment techniques. The grant covers all expenses, as well as pays the teachers a modest stipend. ASU, as well as Burke County Public Schools, is very optimistic about the partnership.