

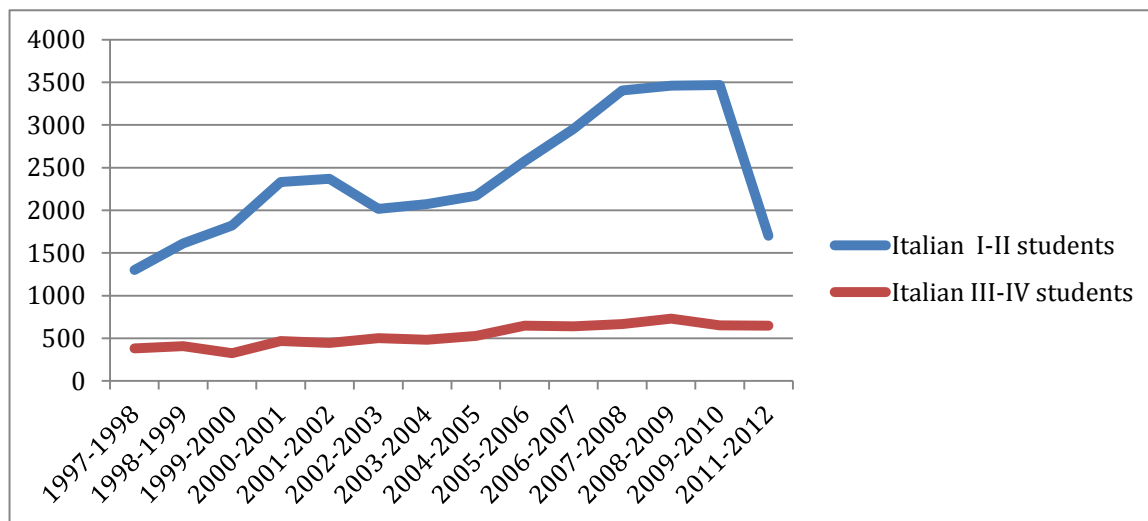


The Italian Community for the Italian Language in the Bay Area

San Francisco, Dec. 11, 2013

OUR CHALLENGE

As we face the challenge that the teaching and learning of the Italian language may disappear from schools in California, the Italian Embassy in Washington DC is launching a strategy to mobilize the Italian Community. The Year of the Italian Culture 2013 in the US is spinning off into a new phase with focus on the Italian language in 2014.



As of 2010 there has been a sharp decline in the number of Californian schools offering Italian as a choice in their World Language Curricula, especially High Schools, where only a minimum of two years of foreign language is required for graduation.

From 2001 to 2013, over 15 Italian Programs all over California have been closed down for a number of reasons, among which:

- Italian perceived as a non-strategic language.
- Lack of demand by PTAs
- Competitive advantage of Spanish and French over Italian,
- Competitive advantage of Spanish teachers in lobbying in favor of Spanish and Spanish for Native Speakers over Italian,
- Budget cuts,
- Unavailability of certified teachers,
- Preoccupation of Principals and Superintendents with reaching the Performance levels as per the NCLB framework and prioritizing core courses (math, English, Science)
- Foreign Language offerings reflecting the demography of the area where the school is located.

Italian is moving towards the group of the least frequently taught languages in the K-12 segment. Fewer people are learning to understand and communicate in Italian.

Italian Speakers	Ages 5 +	%
New York	213,785	27.97%
New Jersey	86,849	11.36%
California	64,772	8.47%

Source: Modern Language Association | American Community Survey | 5-Year Estimates, Public Use Microdata Sample, 2006–2010 <http://arcgis.mla.org/mla/default.aspx>

This is negatively impacting on Italian Programs at college and university level. The closing of Italian programs in schools results in teaching jobs being lost. Many teachers of Italian have to switch to earn a certification in Spanish to be able to stay in their schools.

If Italian gradually disappears from k-12 schools in the Bay Area, it will also disappear from the local Colleges and Universities, thus giving Administrators a justifiable reason to cut Italian divisions in Language Departments.

Only 6 Universities in the Bay Area offer a Major in Italian Language:

Santa Clara University

University of California-Davis

San Francisco State University

Stanford University

But the number of the students is also declining.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO SAVE ITALIAN IN THE BAY AREA?

The prestige of the Italian Language in the USA is linked to it being offered in

- a. Magnet Schools with specialization in foreign languages
- b. International Schools with IB programs
- c. Honor Courses in High Schools
- d. AP Courses in High Schools
- e. Minors in top Colleges/Universities
- f. Majors in top Colleges/Universities
- g. PhD programs in Italian Studies

In order to save the Italian language, our efforts must be targeted to push Italian into any of the above programs and institutions. Each member of our Community, within his/her capacity and persuasive strength, will be an invaluable asset in advocating for Italian to the domain or institutional level he/she is most acquainted with. We have at present:

- Short term goal (urgent)
- Medium term goal (by 2016)
- Long term Goal (by 2018)

SHORT TERM GOAL

We must increase the quota of Italian AP takers.

the AP Exams offered by the U.S. College Board. Failing to reach and maintain a volume of 2500 AP Italian Exams nationwide will result in Italian being removed from the list of the European language Exam set of the College Board.

Exam session	Number of AP test takers in San Francisco – Bay Area
May 2013	94
May 2014	NEW GOAL: 150 (at present: 43 enrolled)

	2012-13	2013-14	
1	BOSTON	128	167
2	CHICAGO	188	241
3	DETROIT	32	30
4	FILADELFIA	27	115
5	HOUSTON	18	26
6	LOS ANGELES	138	37
7	MIAMI	188	208
8	NEW YORK-NEWARK	1220	1250
9	SAN FRANCISCO	94	43
10	WASHINGTON, DC	20	30
	AP ENROLLMENTS	815	2147
	Actual AP test takers	1980	

A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO FUND THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES

<i>Cost</i>	<i>Activity</i>
\$ 89.00	“Adopt an AP Exam” 1 AP Italian Language and Culture Exam fee, per student.
\$ 350.00	Reward a student for taking the AP Italian Exam with a score of 5
\$ 250.00	Reward a student for taking the AP Italian Exam with a score of 4
\$ 150.00	Reward a student for taking the AP Italian Exam with a score of 3
\$ 50.00	Reward a student for taking the AP Italian Exam with a score of 2
\$ 7,000	Adopt a new AP Class in a High School as from 2015
\$ 3,000	Adopt a teacher to prepare and teach an AP course online
\$ 1,845.50	50 books+CD - AP preparation books for self-taught students (ACE THE AP ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE EXAM (3rd Edition) or equivalent (\$36.95 each package)

MEDIUM TERM GOAL

- We must increase enrollments in IB International Schools in the Bay area (100 + students)
- We must increase enrollments in Italian III – IV classes in all High Schools offering Italian (+ 200)
- We must advocate for new Italian programs to be offered in all private catholic High Schools (at least 3 new offering of Italian 1)
- We must increase to 200+ the number of AP test takers

LONG TERM GOAL

- we must save the Italian Program at UC-Davis
- increase the number of study-in-Italy programs in colleges and Universities, through agreements between Italian Higher Education Institutions and Colleges in the Bay Area. (start at least + 1 Study abroad program)