



# NATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND

April 25, 2008

Dear Parent:

The National Foreign Language Center (NFLC) at the University of Maryland is administering STARTALK to encourage and support (financially and technically) the offering of summer language programs for high school and middle school students of Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Persian and Urdu. Along with their participation in the summer programs, the NFLC requests that students complete on-line surveys about their previous language learning experiences and their attitudes and perceptions about languages learning before and after attendance, and an evaluation of their experience at the end of the program. These data, along with data about program characteristics, will be used to inform criteria for future programs and for program design recommendations to the language education community. Your child's participation in these surveys as a student of Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Persian, or Urdu is critical to the success of the STARTALK project and the improvement of Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Persian, and Urdu language learning and professional development strategies

STARTALK also requests that your child assess his/her language skills with LinguaFolio (a self-assessment, self-report tool widely in use in Europe and several U.S. states for language learners) at different points during his/her summer experience. Other assessment tools may also be used by the program your child attends.

All survey responses will be confidential. All data and analyses will be reported without identifying individuals, schools, or districts. The data will be password-secured. Only designated NFLC personnel will have access to the data.

Signed



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Catherine W. Ingold  
Director