

Student Cover Letter



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 students of foreign languages. Along with their participation in the summer programs, the NFLC requests that participants 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 and plans for continued language study 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 participation in these surveys as a foreign language student is critical to the success of the STARTALK project and the improvement of foreign 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 be used by the program your child attends.

Although the NFLC will collect your child's name for the purpose of tracking his/her language development over time, only you, your child, and the researcher will have access to that information. 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Ingold".

Dr. Catherine Ingold
Project Director