Hindi is now accepted as a major foreign language being taught in US schools. As more school districts are gearing to include Hindi in their curriculum they face a shortage of state certified teachers. Unfortunately, education is not a preferred choice of college going students of Indian origin. Very few of those opting for a college degree in education are interested in teaching Hindi. Some states, such as, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have developed a model for certification in Hindi language. Once there are more takers for certification in Hindi more states will certainly move towards developing certification models. Native speakers of Hindi who chose education as a career should earn at least 30 credits in Hindi certification models. Hindi must be a default language in our culture. More parents of Indian origin are sending their children to learn Hindi in STARTALK summer programs. STARTALK Hindu programs deserve full support of our community.

STARTALK teacher training programs are building a network of trained Hindi teachers. These teachers should continue to upgrade their skills and knowledge using digital tools. At the same time Indian American communities around the country should make organized efforts to introduce Hindi courses in local schools. We also need to pool our resources to establish regular Hindi schools as integral part of US School system. Dr. Surendra Gambhir, whose comments appear on these pages, suggests a unique idea to establish World Hindi Institute. He appeals to the Government of India as well as the Indian owned businesses in America for supporting the cause of Hindi. “Hindi must be a default language in our country”. He opines, “Let us hope that the much needed support will be forthcoming.

To create a balance in our schools it is important that Indian American youth opt for a degree in education. If they choose to teach Hindi they will help Heritage kids learn their own language and connect with the culture. More parents of Indian origin are sending their children to learn Hindi in STARTALK summer programs. STARTALK Hindi programs deserve full support of our community.

Hindi as Uniting Force for the Indian Diaspora

Wanted: More Teachers of Indian Origin in American schools

STARTALK: A platform to connect Hindi Teachers

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