

Our Mission

Our mission is to promote awareness of Chinese culture and language in Washington, primarily to:

- Triple the number of Chinese programs in public middle and high schools across Washington (from 22) between the years 2011 and 2017
- Generate student interest in learning Chinese and learning about China
- Prepare students to enter the competitive, interdependent global economy of today
- Sustain a student-led organization that offers high school students a chance to become active community leaders, look to the future, and embrace global responsibility



About WACE

Washington Association for Chinese Education (WACE) is a student-run, nonprofit organization dedicated to generating interest in learning Chinese, helping students understand China, and increasing the number of Chinese programs in Washington schools. We are the only organization of our kind in the Pacific Northwest.



Founded by a group of enthusiastic high school students in March 2011 from an idea that stemmed out of the Chinese Cultural Club at Skyline High School, WACE now spans across seven schools and five school districts. We have received support from over 500 members of the community through event participation and signatures for our petition to bring Chinese programs to more schools in Washington.

For more information, please visit:
[www.waceducation.weebly.com!](http://www.waceducation.weebly.com)



Brought to you by
Washington Association
for Chinese Education

Why Learn Chinese Competition

*"Students who choose to study Chinese are truly giving themselves a distinct competitive advantage."
— Governor Christine O. Gregoire*



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Support & Sponsors

Gary Locke (US Ambassador to China), Christine Gregoire (WA State Governor), and Rick Larsen (WA Congressman; Co-Chair of the US-China bi-Partisan Working Group) have all written and signed letters of support for WACE and the competition.

Our Sponsors:



Other Supporting Organizations:

Asia Society, Teachers of a Critical Language Program, Chinese Coalition, Spokane Chinese Dance Association, Newport Chinese Club

About the Competition

Middle and high school students who are studying Chinese or want to learn can submit either:

- **A written entry:** an essay, poem, or song (300 to 500 words), or
- **A video entry:** of a song, poem, speech, or another creative format (5 minutes max)

Online submissions only between October 1 and November 15. The entry must be original, in **English**, and address the question:

“Why should we learn Chinese?”

Limit 1 entry per contestant.

All entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges. We are looking for superior *ideas, message, and content* rather than writing/performing skills.

The judges will select 1 grand prize winner to win an iPad 2 (or the cash equivalent), 2 runner-ups to win \$250 each, and 3 honorable mentions to win \$100 each. They will also receive **honorary plaques and invitations** to the awards ceremony at the **Seattle Chinese Garden**, where they will get the chance to meet and be recognized by business leaders all over the state.

Competition Objectives

Our goal is to generate interest in learning Chinese among American students, to give them the competitive edge and global perspective needed to succeed in the modern-day economy, and to increase Chinese language learning capacity in the state of Washington.

The **100,000 Strong Initiative**, announced by President Obama in May 2011, proposed to send 100,000 American students to study in China over the next four years. Through a grassroots initiative, we also seek to engage and prepare American students, who will soon be responsible for maintaining the growing economic, political, and cultural ties between the US and China.

