

**Department of Health & Human Services**  
Office of the Secretary of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201



1/23/19

**Directive for Distribution**

Subject: Commending the Metro Nashville Public Schools Board of Education and Kurdish Organizers in the Nashville Community

**Section I: Purpose**

The purpose of this directive is commend the effort of Kurdish community organizers, and the Metro Nashville Public Schools Board of Education, in their effort to expand access to languages of local ethno-linguistic minorities within the Metro Nashville community and to non-European language classes.

**Section II: Acknowledgements**

The Secretary would like to offer his most sincere congratulations to the efforts of members of the Kurdish community who worked diligently with members of the Metro Nashville Board of Education to add Kurdish to the list of languages recognized for foreign language credit. The Nashville area boasts the largest population of Kurds in the entire United States and this effort to recognize Kurdish culture and the profound impact it has had on the Nashville area must be applauded.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

A previous version distributed erroneously labeled “Section III: Additional Notes” as “Section IV” This was a typo and has been corrected.

### Section III: Additional Notes

It is the belief of the Secretary, and the Department of Education, that more local and state agencies should seek to tailor courses to the communities they serve. The Secretary would also like to encourage local and state agencies to begin offering more non-European languages such as Chinese and Arabic. The ability to speak Chinese is becoming an increasingly important skill in global business and commercial affairs. The Secretary believes that local and state agencies should acknowledge this fact and begin offering more non-European languages to address this desire.

**Signed,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aime Vert".

**AV200**

**Secretary of Health & Human Services, Education, Housing, Labor, Veterans'  
Affairs**

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