Heritage Language Program Sustainability: Challenges and Initiatives

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Community-Based Schools
Chinese Program
Organizations

- **NCACLS (National Council of Associations of Chinese Language Schools)** 12 regions (www.ncacls.net)
  - ACS (Association of Chinese Schools) – northeast region
  - The Association of Chinese Schools in Southeastern U.S.
  - Michigan Chinese Educator Association
  - Midwest Chinese Language School Association
  - Northwestern Association of Chinese Language Schools
  - Association of Northern California Chinese Schools
  - Southern California Council of Chinese Schools
  - Houston Chinese School Association
  - Chinese School Association of Hawaii
  - The Association of Chinese Schools in Florida
  - Washington Metropolitan Association of Chinese Schools
  - Association of New Jersey Chinese Schools

- **CSACS (Chinese School Association in the United States)**
  - 500 schools in almost 50 states (www.csaus.net)
Organizational Issues

- NCACLS
  - Regional associations are not really subsidiary organizations of NCACLS
  - Some regional associations are much bigger than others in terms of student populations and geographical areas
    - Northern and Southern California Chinese School Associations have the most student populations
    - Northeast region (ACS) has the biggest geographical areas (6 sub regions)
      - R1 – New England
      - R2 – New York state
      - R3 – New Jersey
      - R4 – PA, South Jersey, and DE
      - R5 – DC, MD, and northern VA
      - R6 – New York city

- CSACS
  - Huge membership requires complex management
Challenges

• Continuity
  • Long-term policies are hard to maintain
• Educational leadership
  • Few school officials have educational background
• Teacher preparation
  • Traditional approach, mechanical drilling, standard answers
• High turnover rate
  • More than 25% turnover rate
• Population shift
• Outreach
  • Some are active, some are passive
Challenges

• Teacher credentials
  • Most teachers do not have teaching credentials
• “Discrete learning” (Lu, 2009)
  • Lack of learning activities between weekends
• Short hours
  • 2.5 to 3 hours a week
• Not accredited and not recognized
• Focused primarily on teaching not learning
• Lack of effective learning outcome assessment
Challenges

- Funding
- Teacher pool
- Curriculum
  - Vertical alignment
  - Backward design
- Teaching and delivery
  - Student-centered
  - Differentiated instruction
- Students do not want to go
Strengths

- Rich cultural resources
  - Chinese calligraphy, Chinese brush painting, abacus, Chinese history, Chinese chess, Chinese cooking, Mahjong, folk dance, paper arts and crafts, Chinese musical instruments, Chinese Yo-Yo (Diabolo), Chinese Top
  - Traditional costumes, lion dance and dragon dance gears, reference books, authentic supplemental materials
- Flexible (changes can be quick)
- Low overhead
- Low budget – total or similar volunteer based
- Higher level involvement of parents
Community-Based Schools
Chinese Program
Chinese School of Delaware

www.ChineseSchoolDE.org
http://chineseschoolde.wikispaces.com
Best Practices

• Form professional organizations
  • Delaware Chinese Teachers Association (DECTA)
    • Professional Development
    • Job Postings
    • Experience Sharing
  • Local and regional heritage conferences
    • By mainstream organizations
      • ACTFL, CAL, NHLRC, STARTALK
    • By local Chinese organizations
      • Association of Chinese Schools (ACS)
• Work with local public/private/charter schools
  • Cultural activities
  • Contests
Best Practices

Digital Learning
Best Practices

- Establish online platforms
  - Website (www.ChineseSchoolDE.org)
  - Wiki site
    (http://chineseschoolde.wikispaces.com)
  - Blog
  - iPad teaching and learning (started in 2011)
- Participate in national or international assessment
  - Children’s Chinese Competency Certification (CCCC)
Effectiveness

• Benchmark assessments show positive outcomes

• 2014
  • 100% Sprouting (level 1), 100% Seedling (level 2), 80% Blossoming (level 3)

• 2013
  • 94% Seedling (level 2), 91% Blossoming (level 3)

• 2012
  • 33% Sprouting (level 1), 54% Seedling (level 2), 62% Blossoming (level 3)

• 2011
  • 52% Sprouting (level 1), 0% Seedling (level 2), 72% Blossoming (level 3)
Path Forward

- Cloud-based
  - Data storage and retrieval
  - Challenges
    - Privacy issues especially for minors
    - Parents’ technical capability
    - Maintenance under high turnover rate (information security)
    - Information sharing (copy right)
- Mobility
  - Mobile device delivery/learning
  - Challenges
    - Multi-operating system platforms (Windows vs. iOS vs. Android)
    - Information security concerns
Best Practices

YouTube

• Pros
  • Rich materials available
  • Easy for students (visual, audio)

• Cons
  • Search may lead to inappropriate web sites at end of the video or on the side bar
  • Embedded commercials
Best Prectices

• ShowMe (iPad app)

  http://www.showme.com/sh/?h=o2JklHc
  http://www.showme.com/sh/?h=Vwea1bc
  http://www.showme.com/sh/?h=zDXnXDk
  http://www.showme.com/sh/?h=4o9ovDs
  http://www.showme.com/sh/?h=sJ6fZPk

• Quizlet

  www.quizlet.com
Best Practices

• Voice Thread
  https://voicethread.com/share/4660082
  https://voicethread.com/share/4660061
  https://voicethread.com/share/4660011
  https://voicethread.com/share/4660076
  https://voicethread.com/share/4660028

• Google doc
Best Practices

Smartphone apps

• wechat
• iFlyDictation
Online Poll

Student

www.pollev.com
/tommylu
Online Poll

Students can answer questions either online, using iPad, or smart phones with texting capability.
Best Practices

Flashcard

• [www.coursehero.com](http://www.coursehero.com)

• Need to create an account first
• Give your students the URL; e.g.,
  http://www.coursehero.com/flashcards/525893/Sample-1/

• Sample-1 is the name of the title
• A similar flashcard application is Quizlet at www.quizlet.com

• Can print and pronounce the word or phrase
Online collaboration for teachers

http://www.Edmodo.com
Story Board

www.Storyboard.com

Need to sign in as a student first
Online Classroom

Twiddla

• http://www.twiddla.com/12077773

• No setup, web-based meeting
Online Meeting

StartMeeting

- [www.startmeeting.com](http://www.startmeeting.com)
- Click join
- Enter first name and e-mail address and meeting ID
- Free account
- Can record meeting
- Screen sharing
- File sharing
- Can show PowerPoint presentations, web sites, etc.
Conclusion

• Chinese community-based schools have been around for over 100 years, they will continue whether Chinese is “hot” or not.
• Shift happened, because shift happens. Some will survive, and some will be gone.
• Online (cloud) based
• Best resource in the local community
• Collaboration, communication, cooperation among mainstream school teachers, school districts, and state and local governments