



usspeaksitalian

**Keeping our Italian language and  
culture alive  
in American schools**

NY-NJ-CT

Local Observatory on AP Italian  
Language and Culture

# What is the AP exam?

- ❖ **Advanced Placement examinations are taken each May by high school students at participating American, Canadian, and international educational institutions.**
- ❖ **The tests are the culmination of year-long Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high-school level.**

# A Brief History of the AP

- **After the end of World War II, the Ford Foundation funded a committee studying education. In 1952 it recommended allowing high school seniors to study college level material and to take achievement exams that allowed them to attain college credit for this work.**
- **The College Board, a non-profit organization based in New York City, has run the AP program since 1955.**

# AP Fact Sheet

- ❖ Many high schools offer AP (up to **10.000**)
- ❖ AP courses are offered in **39 different subjects**. Each year **2 million** high school students take **3,5 million** AP exams.
- ❖ As of 2013, the most taken AP exam was AP English Language with 476,277 students, and the least taken was Japanese with 1,169 students

# AP Courses

## AP Capstone

- AP Research
- AP Seminar

## Arts

- AP Art History
- AP Music Theory
- AP Studio Art: 2-D Design
- AP Studio Art: 3-D Design
- AP Studio Art: Drawing

## English

- AP English Language and Composition
- AP English Literature and Composition

## History & Social Science

- AP Comparative Government and Politics
- AP European History
- AP Human Geography
- AP Macroeconomics
- AP Microeconomics
- AP Psychology
- AP United States Government and Politics
- AP United States History
- AP World History

## Math & Computer Science

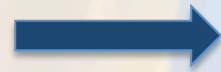
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Statistics

## Sciences

- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics B
- AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism
- AP Physics C: Mechanics
- AP Physics 1
- AP Physics 2

## World Languages & Cultures

- AP Chinese Language and Culture
- AP French Language and Culture
- AP German Language and Culture
- AP Italian Language and Culture
- AP Japanese Language and Culture
- AP Latin
- AP Spanish Language and Culture
- AP Spanish Literature and Culture



# Why take the AP Exam?

- **Many colleges and universities in the U.S. grant credits or advanced placement based on AP test scores.**
- **Those in over twenty other countries do likewise.**
- **Colleges may also take AP grades into account when deciding which students to accept.**

# AP Italian Language and Culture

- ◆ **The Advanced Placement Italian Language and Culture course is intended to give students a thorough background in Italian language and Italian culture, equivalent to a college-level course.**

## ***A Brief History of the AP Italian Course and Exam***

**1985:** *First mention of the lack of an achievement test for Italian*

**1992:** *First achievement test: 900 students*

**1999:** *First note on the advisability of developing an AP test or an AP-type test in Italian*

**2000:** *Proposal for an AP Program in Italian.*

**2003:** *The College Board decides to develop an AP course and exam in Italian*

**2005, September:** *The first AP Italian Courses are offered.*

**\* 2006, May:** *1,597 students took the AP Italian exam for the first time.*

**2007:** *1,642 students took the exam*

**\* 2008, April:** *The CB announces that the AP will be suspended — unless external funding becomes available — because too few students were participating in it to warrant the cost.*

**2008, May:** *1,930 students took the exam*

**2009, May:** *2,282 students took the exam*

**2010:** *Suspended*

**2011:** *Suspended*

**2011, September:** *The AP Italian Language Program is reinstated*

**2012, May:** *1,806 students took the exam*

**2013, May:** *1,980 students took the exam*

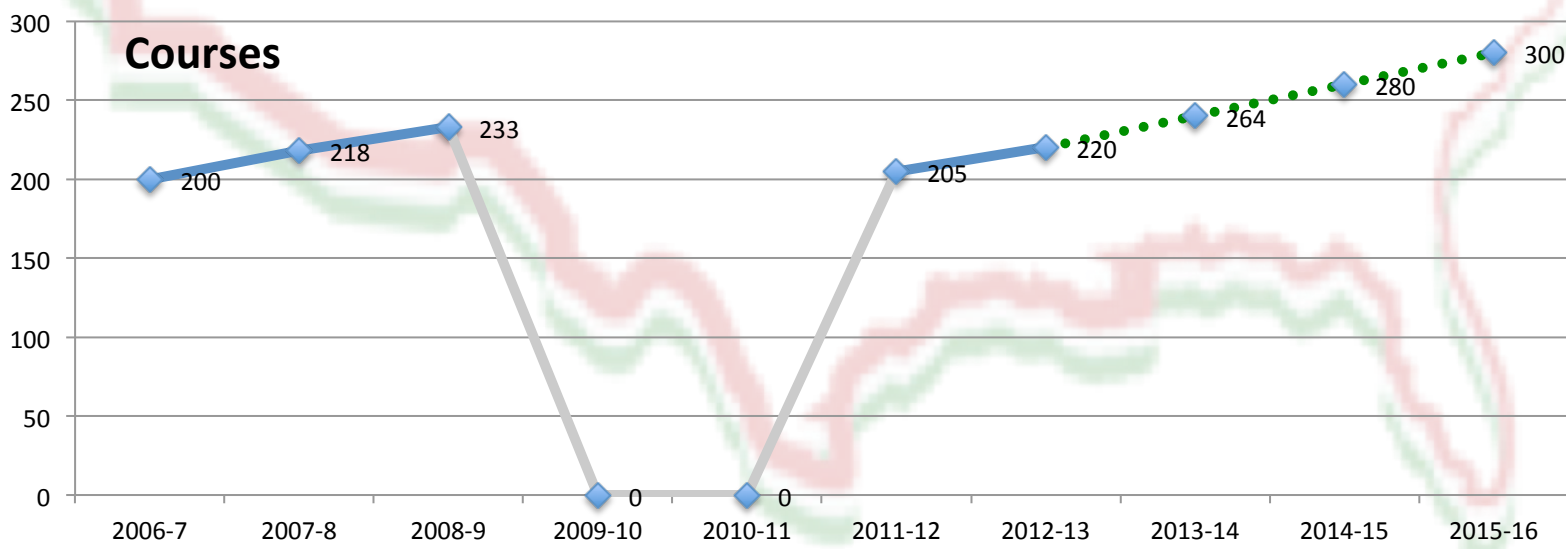
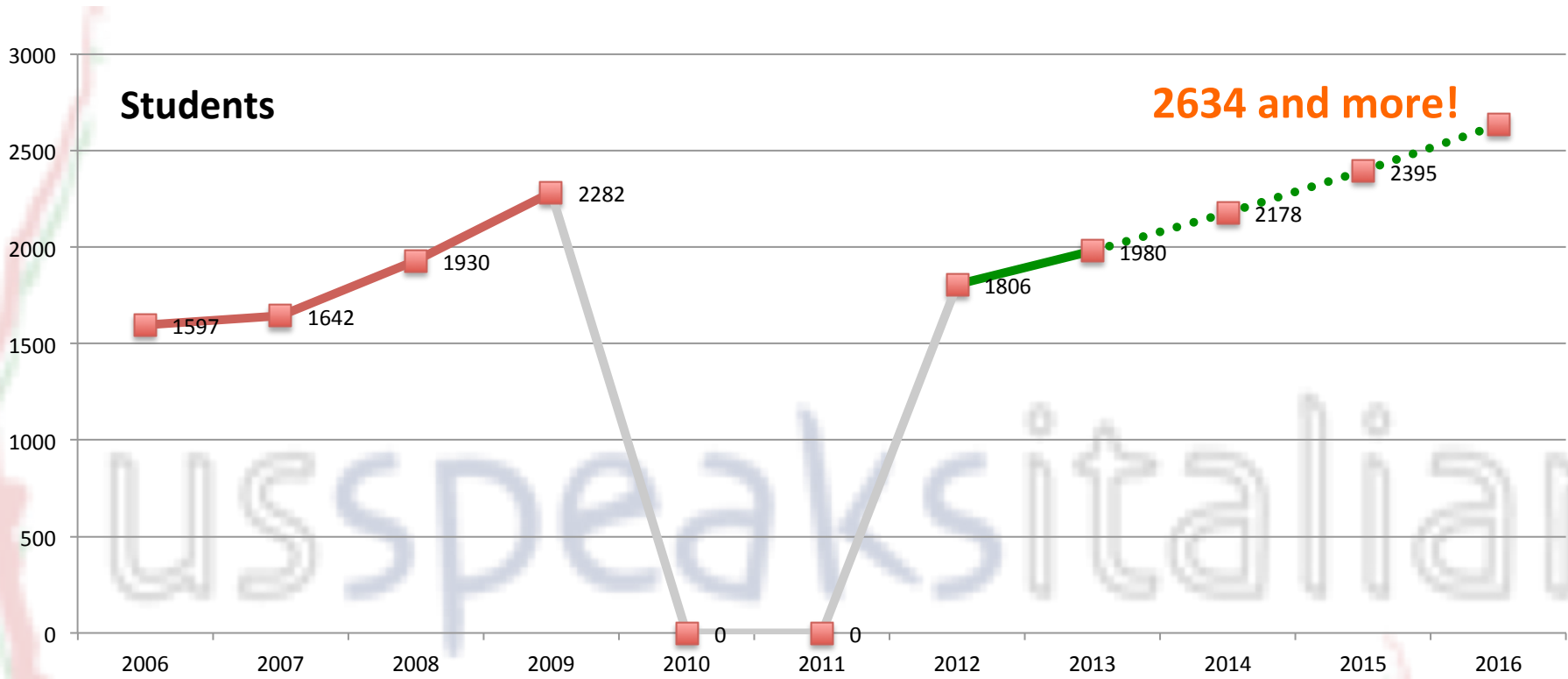
**2014:** *.....*

**2015:** *.....*

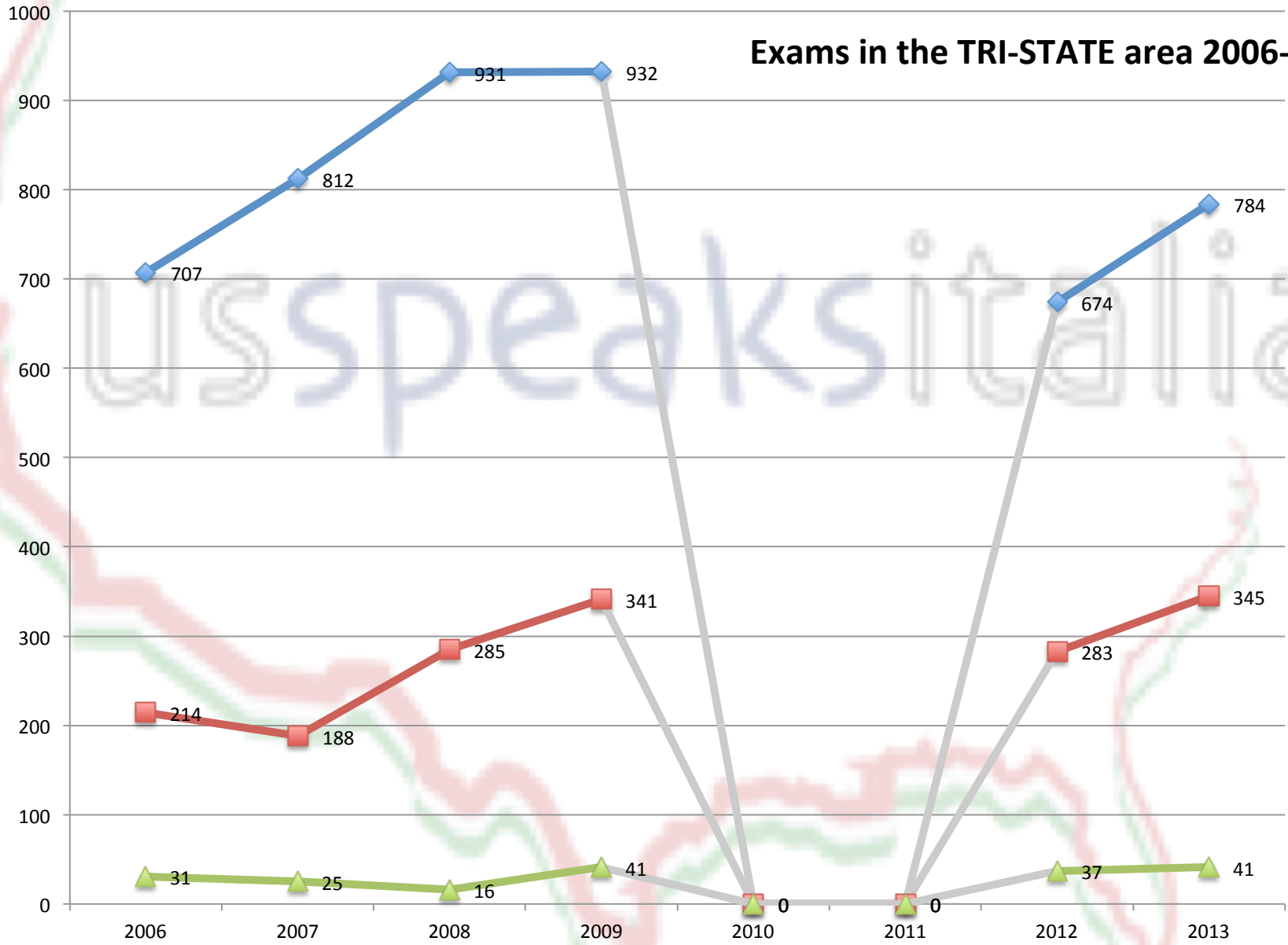
**\* 2016, May:** *We need at least 2,500 students taking the exam*







# Exams in the TRI-STATE area 2006-2013



- NY
- NJ
- CT

# Advocacy

*The restoration of the program is not the destination but rather the foundation of an important effort aimed at promoting the diffusion of Italian in schools as well as the formation of teachers and instructors.*

*Claudio Bisogniero, Ambassador*

# Why take the AP Italian Exam?

- 1. To save time and money;**
- 2. To show colleges that a student is already investing in a global cultural model for his/her future;**
- 3. To strengthen his/her transcript;**
- 4. To save money by qualifying to enroll in an Italian university with his/her American high school diploma and three AP exams, one of which must be the AP Italian Language and culture exam.**

# Advocacy

## ◆ PARENTS:

- Speak to your children about selecting Italian as their foreign language of choice and encourage schools in your community to offer courses in Italian studies, given Italy's rich historical culture.

## ◆ TEACHERS

- Speak to your department chairperson and your principal, and together you can organize and develop an AP Italian language and culture course for your district and school.


## ◆ COMMUNITY

- Mobilize in order to ensure that Italian and Italian-American history and culture, as well as the Italian language, do not fall by the wayside.



## ◆ STUDENTS

- **Speak to your principal about adding Italian.**
- **Italian language education will enhance a student's understanding and appreciation of the vast contributions of Italians and Italian Americans to American history, government, philosophy, art, architecture, science, medicine, and much more.**

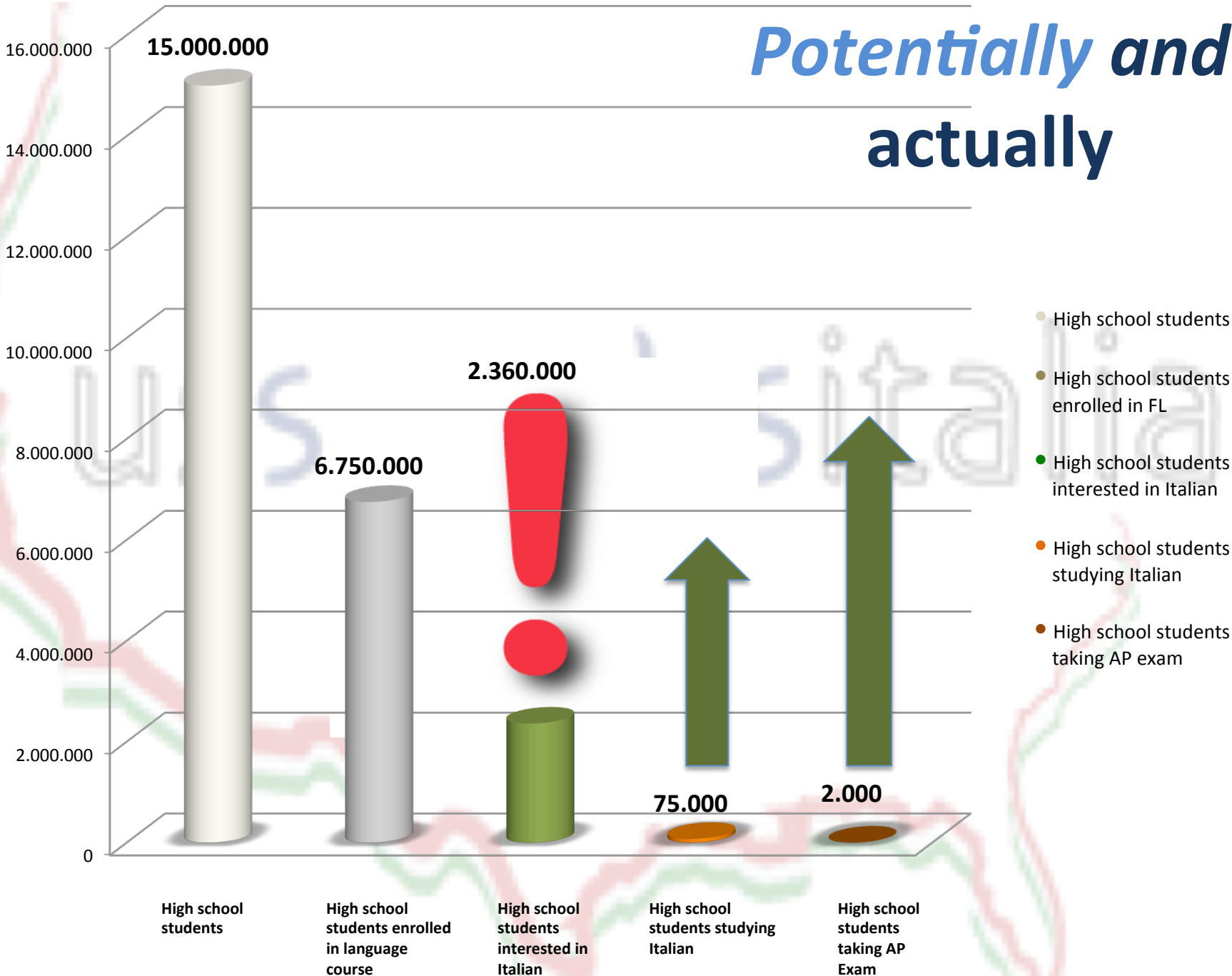


*We have a challenge in front of us: that of keeping  
our Italian language and culture alive in  
American schools.*

*Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General*

**Is it possible?  
YES!**

# Potentially and actually





## J. LEADING DESTINATIONS of U.S. Study Abroad Students

- 14 of the top 25 destinations are outside Europe.

Rank	Place of Origin	2009/10	2010/11	% of Total	% Change
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270,604</b>	<b>273,996</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>
1	United Kingdom	32,683	33,182	12.1	1.5
2	Italy	27,940	30,361	11.1	8.7
3	Spain	25,411	25,965	9.5	2.2
4	France	17,161	17,019	6.2	-0.8
5	China	13,910	14,596	5.3	4.9
6	Australia	9,962	9,736	3.6	-2.3
7	Germany	8,551	9,018	3.3	5.5
8	Costa Rica	6,262	7,230	2.6	15.5
9	Ireland	6,798	7,007	2.6	3.1
10	Argentina	4,835	4,589	1.7	-5.1

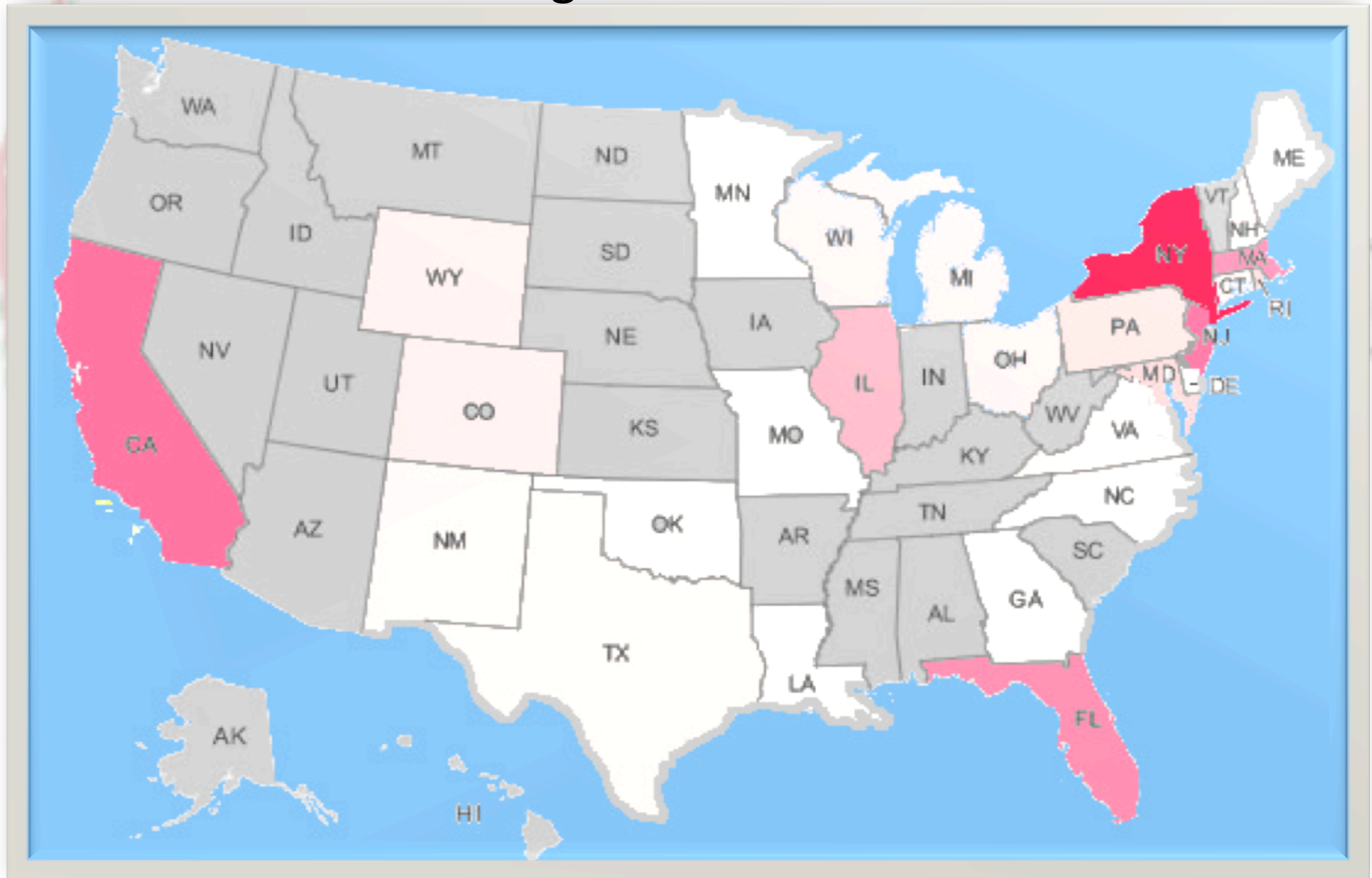


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**HOW?**

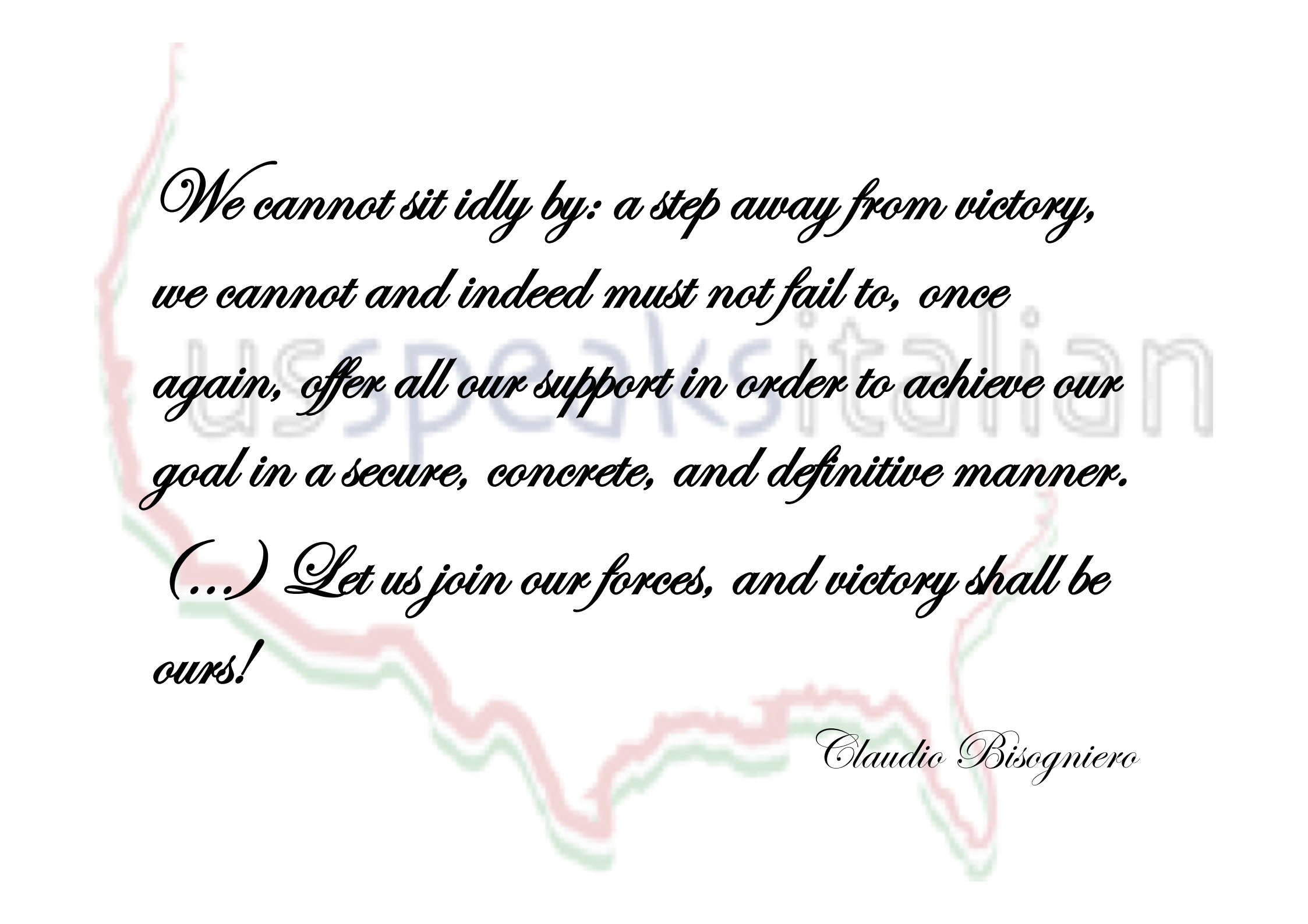
ACTIONS	Total	Italian
— Increase the number of high schools offering Italian	≈ 20,000	≈ 660
— Increase the number of high school students of Italian	≈ 2,360,000	≈ 75,000
— Increase the number of teachers of Italian		Less than 2% of the Foreign Language teachers at High School
— At colleges and universities:		
— Increase the number of majors in Italian		145
— Increase the number of graduate courses in Linguistics and Language Pedagogy of Italian Language and Literature		44 (almost all of them are focused on Literature)

# Geographical Distribution of Schools and Colleges Offering Italian in the USA



# Strategic Plan of the National Observatory

- **Greater mobilization at the local level**
  - via the creation of local branches of the Observatory;
- **Outreach to those schools that do not yet have Italian programs, and support to the existing Italian programs**
  - (meetings with the local school authorities; supply of materials and subsidies; sponsorship of grants/scholarships; etc.);
- **“Adopt a school, a class, a teacher” initiatives:**
  - if every organization would sponsor, as of now, the opening of 2-3 new classes of Italian, we would see a marked increase in the number of students taking the AP Italian exam in the coming years;
- **Sponsorship of AP level Italian courses:**
  - this would allow for a plethora of course and exam offerings in many high schools where AP Italian is not offered, thereby making the goal of 2,500 students taking the exam in 2015-2016 feasible;
- **Monetary incentives to students:**
  - so that they take the AP Italian exam.



*We cannot sit idly by: a step away from victory,  
we cannot and indeed must not fail to, once  
again, offer all our support in order to achieve our  
goal in a secure, concrete, and definitive manner.*

*(...) Let us join our forces, and victory shall be  
ours!*

*Claudio Bisogniero*



***Our goal is that much closer and accessible!***

***Let us join forces, and victory shall be ours!***

***We count on your generous help and support!***

**“Many thanks!” • “Grazie infinite!”**