



Dual Language Immersion Fact Sheet

What is immersion?

- Immersion programs use the **target language as the medium of instruction** in all classes. In other words, there is no “Chinese class”, teachers speak in Chinese to teach every subject.
- Immersion programs have budgets similar to any traditional mono-lingual school, yet **dramatically increase school interest**.
- A recent Stanford study found:
 - elementary students in immersion programs have **better linguistic competency** than non-immersion high school students taking advanced AP classes in that language.
 - students in immersion programs **do not suffer any drawbacks in performance in other subjects**, like math, science or even English language arts.

\$12,602 Dual-Language Average

\$13,469 per student DCPS average



Competitiveness of DC Workforce

International visitors to DC represent only 9% of all tourists, yet spend \$6.8 billion per year — 3 times as much as domestic travelers

Over 4,000 jobs requiring bilingual skills are advertised every month in the DC metro area

In the United States, bilinguals are paid on average 5–20% more than if they were mono-lingual

Parental Demand



For every child matched with a seat in an existing immersion program in the District, there are 5 more children waiting for a seat

Changing Demographics

29% of residents in the DC metro area speak languages other than English at home

Immersion is the best model to teach English Language Learners yet only 1/3 are in such programs



Interconnected World

“A workforce with more market-relevant foreign language skills is a strategic economic asset for the United States”

- Council on Foreign Relations

“If the United States wants to play a leading role in a global economy, states will need to invest in foreign language instruction”

- US Chamber of Commerce

Benefits of Bilingualism

- “The collective evidence from a number of studies suggests that the **bilingual experience improves the brain’s so-called executive function** — a command system that directs the attention processes that we use for planning, solving problems and performing various other mentally demanding tasks.” *(New York Times, 2012)*
- Immediate benefits include **greater academic achievement in other areas of study**, including reading, social studies, and mathematics and earning higher SAT and ACT scores, especially in verbal areas. *(Curtain and Pesola, 1994)*
- Immersion programs produce a student “whose experience with two language systems seems to have left him or her with a **mental flexibility, superiority in concept formation, and a more diversified set of mental abilities.**” *(Robinson, D W., 1992).*

