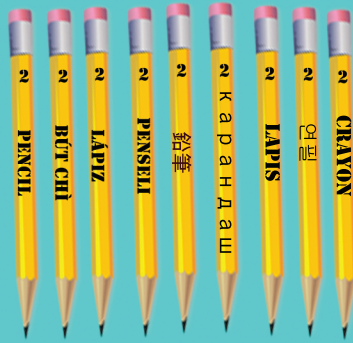


Supporting Multilingualism in the Classroom

How English Language Learner Certification for teachers benefits all students

Nine percent of Washington students are enrolled in transitional bilingual courses, representing 208 languages.



Countries all over the world (Guatemala and Germany to name a few) believe that multilingualism is an asset, not a deficit. In fact, nearly three out of four primary school students in Europe are learning another language.



It is estimated that it takes three to seven years for students to become proficient in English, depending on their age. During this time, students learning English are often placed in “low ability” classes where college prep coursework is discouraged and students drop out of school.



The number of students who are multilingual is growing. By 2025, at least one out of four American students will be multilingual.



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One of the best ways to respond to the growing number of multilingual students is to encourage more teachers to be ELL certified. Teachers with an ELL certification must master certain skills including cultural diversity and inclusivity. These skills benefit all students and give teachers the tools for tomorrow's classroom.

Sources

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