



Delaware Immersion Primer

Why consider Dual Language Immersion?

Research shows that long-term participation in Dual Language Immersion programs can produce the following benefits:

- **Enhanced Cognitive Skills**

Immersion students, due to the demands both conscious and unconscious of processing two languages, typically develop greater cognitive flexibility and demonstrate increased attention control, better memory, and superior problem solving skills while, at the same time, experiencing enhanced understanding of their primary language.

Bamford, K., & Mizokawa, D. (1991). Additive-bilingual immersion education: Cognitive and language development. *Language Learning*, 41(3), 413–429.

Maillat, D., & Serra, C. (2009). Immersion education and cognitive strategies: Can the obstacle be the advantage in a multilingual society? *International Journal of Multilingualism*, 6(2), 186–206.

- **Improved Academic Performance**

Immersion students perform as well as or better than non-immersion students on standardized tests of English and mathematics, even when these tests are administered in English.

Robinson, D. W. (1998). The cognitive, academic, and attitudinal benefits of early language learning. In M. Met (Ed.), *Critical issues in early second language learning: Building for our children's future* (pp. 37–56). Scott Foresman - Addison Wesley.

Lazaruk, W. (2007). Linguistic, academic and cognitive benefits of French immersion. *The Canadian Modern Language Review*, 63(5), pp. 605-628.

- **Narrowing of the Achievement Gap**

Partially as a result of the cognitive demands placed on students who learn content in two different languages, no other intervention model holds greater promise to narrow the achievement gap more effectively between high and low performing populations than dual language immersion.

Collier, W. and Thomas, G. (2012). *Dual language education for a transformed world* (pp.44-46). Albuquerque: Fuente Press.

Haj-Broussard, M.G. (2003). *Language, identity and the achievement gap: Comparing experiences of African-American students in a French immersion and a regular education context (Doctoral Dissertation)*. Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College.

- **Higher Second Language Proficiency**

Immersion students achieve higher levels of second language proficiency than through any other language development model. By the end of their K-12 program, students possess bilingualism and bi-literacy.

Center for Applied Second Language Studies, (2011). *What levels of proficiency do immersion students achieve?* Eugene: CASLS.

Padilla, A., et al., (2013). A Mandarin/English two-way immersion program: language proficiency and academic achievement. *Foreign Language Annals* 46 (4), pp. 661-679.

- **Enhanced Global Citizenship**

Immersion students are better prepared to collaborate and communicate across linguistic and political boundaries to solve problems as a result of the demands of their learning environments, and they evidence more positive attitudes toward other peoples and other cultures.

Howard, E. (2002). Two-way Immersion: A Key to Global Awareness. *Educational Leadership*, 60(2), 62–64.

Stewart, V. (2012). *A world-class education*. Alexandria: ASCD, pp. 136-141.