

## THE VALUE OF LANGUAGE LEARNING

While data show general declines in higher education language enrollments, K–12 language pro-

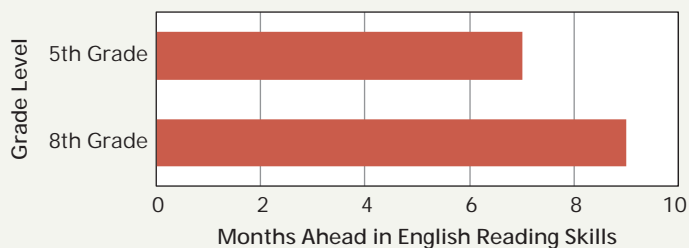
# LANGUAGE LEARNING

Growing trends in education have placed new emphasis on building literacy among English Learners (ELs) and developing bilingualism in native English speakers, all in recognition of bilingualism's cognitive, social, and economic value. Public opinion about bilingualism is generally positive, with federal, state, and local governments and other entities all launching initiatives to encourage the study of languages in U.S. schools.

## KEY FACTS

- According to U.S. Department of Education data, English Learners (ELs) are the fastest-growing student population in the U.S., representing nearly 10% of all K–12 public school enrollments.
- ELs are increasingly diverse. Nearly 80% are from a Spanish-speaking household, but the remaining 20%+ speaks over 400 languages.

Estimate of the Number of Months Students in Dual-Language Immersion Classes are Ahead of their Peers in Monolingual Classrooms in English Reading Skills, 2012–2015



biliteracy, and data routinely show that students in dual-language immersion programs outperform their monolingual peers.

The exponential growth of these programs has outpaced the teacher workforce, with a majority of states reporting bilingual education teacher shortages. In anticipation of continued growth, many states and districts have undertaken initiatives to strengthen the bilingual teacher pipeline by recruiting from the local bilingual, often former-EL population. In Texas, California, and Minnesota, new programs develop an organic bilin-

reimbursement and guaranteed job placement.

For more on the broad trends that mark American engagement with various forms of the humanities, visit [humanitiesindicators.org](http://humanitiesindicators.org) or email [humanitiesindicators@amacad.org](mailto:humanitiesindicators@amacad.org).