



LANGUAGE ACCESS POLICES

U.S.-based businesses routinely attribute lost business opportunity and unmet international potential to a lack of multilingual human capital. Language access policies, which support the maintenance and transmission of minority languages across generations, help address this demand.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

A growing number of programs assist LEP individuals in the transition to the workforce. Chicago Public Schools supports a growing Arabic language program, with support from the Center for Arabic Language and Culture, Qatar Foundation International, and others, that draws on the local Arabic-speaking population to supplement classroom learning.

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against Limited English Proficient individuals (LEPs), as they became known, fluctuated along with the status of the language they spoke and the prevailing sentiments of the time.

In 1974, the Supreme Court ruled in a landmark case, *Lau v. Nichols*, that language instruction was a civil right. And in 2000, President Clinton signed an executive order that extended these protections by requiring that any recipient agency of federal funding provide language access to their services without burdening individuals with the costs.

KEY FACTS

Over the past five years, demand for bilingual workers in the U.S. more than doubled, with Chinese, Spanish, and Arabic in highest demand.

By one estimate, the language services industry contributes roughly \$15 billion in direct income to the U.S. economy every year and leverages some \$1.5 trillion in overseas exports.

Estimated Number of Online Job Postings for Workers with Bilingual Skills