

## SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE CAMPAIGN

Celebrating the Power of Bilingualism!

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*Supporting the Speak Your Language Campaign*



## WHAT WILL BE DISCUSSED

OneAmerica's work to build a culturally and linguistically responsive school system

- Speak Your Language campaign & website
- The facts about bilingualism
- World Language Credit Program
- Seal of Biliteracy
- Dual Language Bill and other advocacy efforts
- How to get involved



## OUR VISION

Build an education system that reflects the strengths and assets of our diverse communities and eliminates disparities.



## AT THE ROOT OF OUR WORK

•Address and shift power dynamics that exist in the education system

•Advocate for policies that create equity – ensure that all students and families get what they need to have the same opportunities in education



## ABOUT THE CAMPAIGN

- Advance policies and build systems to embrace, cultivate, and honor bilingualism as a skill and asset.
- Disprove “English-only” myths that discourage parents from speaking their native language with their children.
- Shift school systems from being English-dominant to valuing language and its connection to culture and heritage, and promote positive identity for children in schools.



## WHAT WE DO

- Establish a home base for information about bilingualism empowerment
- Communication and Awareness Campaigns
- Community Organizing
- Policy Advocacy



## THE FACTS

- **Over half the world's population** is bilingual or multilingual
- More than **180 languages are spoken across the state of Washington**
- **More than 1 in 3 first graders** in South Seattle and South King County is an ELL student
- Bilingualism is extremely common – & rising! In the United States, **21% of school-age children (between ages 5-17) speak a language other than English at home.**



## BUSTING MYTHS, TELLING TRUTHS

**MYTH 1:** Learning two languages during the early childhood years will overwhelm, confuse, and/or delay acquisition of English

**MYTH 2:** The language development of dual language learners looks the same as monolingual language development

**MYTH 3:** Total English immersion from prekindergarten through third grade is the best way for a young dual language learner to acquire English

**MYTH 4:** Spanish-speaking Latinos show social as well as academic delays when entering kindergarten

**MYTH 5:** Native English speakers may experience academic and language delays in dual language programs



## THE ADVANTAGES OF BILINGUALISM

- Bilingual students are better able to ignore distraction and focus their attention
- Bilingual students are more creative and better at planning and problem solving
- Bilingualism leads to stronger identity



## HOW BILINGUAL STUDENTS PERFORM IN SCHOOL

- Bilingual students retain cultural pride
- A child can succeed in learning English *whether or not it is the spoken language at home*
- Maintaining home language may make it easier for students to acquire English
- Receiving credits made students confident about being bilingual



## IMPORTANT NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BILINGUALS

- Home language speakers can now earn high school credits toward graduation for their home language fluency
- Biliteracy programs are beneficial for student graduation and college goals
- Bilingual students may experience increased career success: bilingual workers are in higher demand than ever before, in a wide range of industries



## ADVANCING POLICIES THAT ADVANCE HOME LANGUAGE IN SCHOOL



Highline School District unanimously passed Home Language Campaign Resolution!





### LOBBY DAY IN OLYMPIA



### OUR RECENT WINS



This year we passed our first bill, **SHB 1445**, to expand funding and capacity for dual language programs in early learning and elementary, middle and high schools.

Read it here: [SHB 1445](#)



## WORLD LANGUAGE CREDIT PROGRAM

*Did you know students can receive up to 4 high school credits just for speaking a language besides English? That includes their home language!*

Students across the seven Road Map districts, from a wide range of backgrounds, and consistently found that the Road Map World Language Credit Program provided positive recognition of the value of bilingualism and increased students' pride in and appreciation for their own strengths.

It also appeared to help them meet graduation requirements.



*"I feel honored. Because that's my language. I don't really use it that often. I just use it at home. At school I'm afraid to use it."*  
- Youcef Ben

## STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY



The Seal of Biliteracy is a graduation diploma feature for students who have demonstrated proficiency and literacy in a language other than English.

*"We were ecstatic when we had students requesting to test in more than 50 languages... It helps us motivate students to continue to strive to develop their language skills, especially reading and writing, and to aim for high school graduation so they can earn the Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma..."*

Michele Anciaux Aeki, Ph.D., P.M.P. International Education Administrator Seattle Public Schools

### CURRENT STATUS

- Year 3 of Implementation: 2016-2017
- Current Status: Locally administered by Washington school district per OSPI guidelines (Optional Participation)
- Seals awarded in SY 2016 = 2,256 (up nearly 30%)
- 47 languages tested in 41 school districts in Washington



## WHAT YOU CAN YOU DO?

- Share resources and events (for the website or for our newsletter)
- Share translated fliers & videos with communities around you
- Share the families and educators toolkits
- Sign up for our newsletter to stay in the loop!
- Become a Student or Parent Ambassador
- Spread the message: Celebrate Bilingualism!



## REFLECTION ACTIVITY

### Instructions:

- Take 2 minutes to individually answer the questions to the right.
- Take 2 minutes to turn to a partner and share what you wrote.
- If necessary revise your statement based on your partners feedback.

1. Imagine a school or district where bilingualism is fostered and promoted. What would it look like for students, parents, and educators?
2. What are 2-3 things you can do to support bilingual students?
3. How can the Speak Your Language campaign support you in making this happen?



## RESOURCES

\*Speak Your Language Campaign website <http://speakyourlanguage.org/>

\*Speak Your Language Campaign Flyers in 24 languages

\*Families and Educators Toolkits



QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!

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