## **Education Policy Center**

**HELLO** 

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT

## DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS & ENGLISH LEARNERS

Currently, Arizona language
policy prohibits English
learners (ELs) from enrolling
in dual language programs
(programs that deliver
instruction in two languages)
until they have been reclassified
as fluent English speakers.

**MYTHS:** 

English immersion is the best way for ELs to acquire English

**HOLA** 

ELs are not ready to learn content subjects until they have learned English

ELs can soak up English like a sponge

FACTS:

ELs who are provided with dual language programming academically outperform English speakers<sup>12</sup>

It can take around 7 years for ELs to become proficient in English<sup>3</sup>

ELLs who are taught academic content (e.g., math, science, language arts, etc.) in their first language build skills that enable them to transfer the information into English<sup>4</sup>

There are cognitive and social benefits to being bilingual<sup>5</sup>

WHAT'S THE TAKEAWAY?

English learners need access to dual language programs to help develop bilingualism and biliteracy in both their home language and in English.

Sources: https://bit.ly/epc-dual-language-programs

the university of arizona

College of Education