

# Bilingualism in the United States

## 60 Million People

in the United States come from a home in which another language is spoken.

The largest percentage increases from 2010 to 2014

Spanish (up 2.3 million)

Chinese (up 331,000)

Arabic (up 252,000)

Tagalog (up 115,000)

Hindi (up 114,000)

Urdu (up 89,000)

### Languages with more than a million speakers in the United States

There are 39.3 million Spanish speakers in the United States.

Chinese

Tagalog

Vietnamese

French

Korean

Arabic

3.1 million

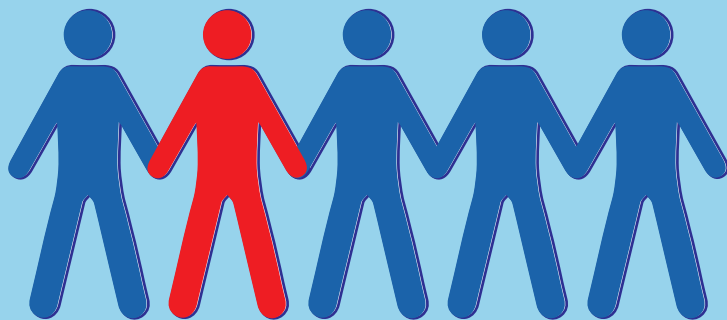
1.7 million

1.5 million

1.2 million

1.1 million

1.1 million



1 in 5 students comes from a home in which another language is spoken.

This number is expected to grow by

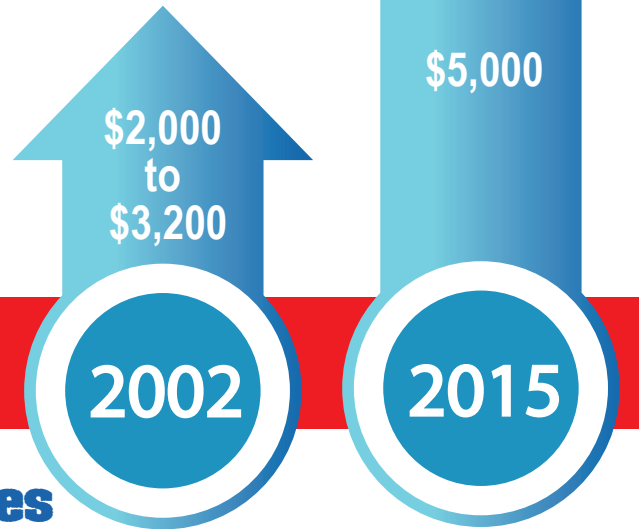
# 25%

in the next few years

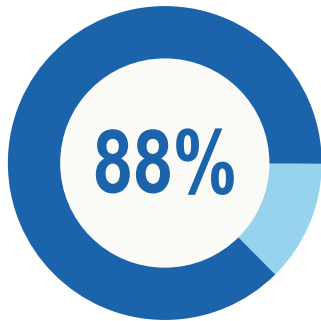
# Benefits of Bilingualism

Balanced bilinguals (individuals literate in both languages) were less likely to drop out of high school, more likely to have higher occupational status and earn more than those who lost their primary language.

On average, children who keep their primary language earn more annually than monolinguals.



**Research shows that businesses overwhelmingly prefer to hire multilingual employees**



88% of executive recruiters say the ability to speak more than one language is critical to international business success. In the past 20 years, emerging markets (markets from smaller non-English speaking countries) have surpassed the size of the US market.

1990

Emerging markets accounted for 30% of the world GDP

2013

Emerging markets accounted for 50% of the world GDP

According to the Society for Human Resource Management, up to 20% of call center companies' staffs are bilingual.

**Having a workforce that can sell to and service customers in their country and in America has been a proven way to grow a nation's GDP.**

Sources:  
Gandára, Dr. Patricia, and Sylvia Acevedo. "Economic Advantages of a Bilingual Workforce." *Sylvia Acevedo*. May 2016. Web. <[www.sylviaacevedo.com](http://www.sylviaacevedo.com)>. <http://cis.org/One-in-Five-US-Residents-Speaks-Foreign-Language-at-Home>  
<http://www.monster.com/career-advice/article/value-of-spanish-in-workplace>

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