

towards teaching not only our children other languages, but teaching those that speak other languages, English.

On the other hand supporters of bilingual education argue just the opposite. If non-English speaking students are educated in both their native language and English, they will learn English in a more organic and efficient manner, improving both the students' skills in English and their mother tongue. The child who is exposed to multiple languages in an academic environment will not feel ashamed to use his or her native language and will consequently be of a more receptive frame of mind to learn and master English.⁶

Supporters of bilingual education believe that the school should build upon, rather than dismantle, the minority child's language and culture. By teaching children academic subjects in their native tongue, while simultaneously offering them English language instruction, students can learn the language and continue to progress academically.⁷

Because of the large increase in immigration of foreign speaking languages there has been an increase in the need for teachers to be able to work with English Language Learners. At the same time these bilingual students are speaking their first language at home with their parents and speaking their second language at school, as these students grow older, go to college, and eventually into the working world their knowledge of two languages allows them to have so many more possibilities than those students that only speak one language. In the United States, and specifically in the Southwest, a quality education must prepare all students to succeed in the bilingual employment market. It is an injustice if students are not given the tools necessary to learn, write, read, and experience such knowledge.¹ However, this is not an easy thing for teachers to take part of, not many school districts support bilingual education.