Benefits of Multilingualism

There are multiple benefits to being multilingual, multiliterate, and multicultural in today's global society. Knowing more than one language from birth, acquiring a new language through school, or learning languages later in life, can provide tangible advantages in many areas. From delaying cognitive signs of aging, to earning college credits, and getting a better job offer, multilingualism is an asset that can benefit English learners as well as native English speakers in a variety of ways.

**COGNITIVE**
- Executive function
  - Attentional control
  - Task switching (mental flexibility)
- May delay the onset of age-related cognitive decline and the onset of illnesses such as Alzheimer’s disease
- Increased intellectual flexibility

**EDUCATIONAL**
- Comparable or higher academic achievement of students in dual language programs as compared to students in English-only programs
- Improved learning outcomes in various subjects
- Bilingualism associated with increased high school graduation rates among children of immigrants
- Leads to increased levels of creativity
- Promotes higher levels of abstract thought and reasoning
- Engenders enhanced metalinguistic awareness to support the learning of languages in the future

**SOCIOCULTURAL**
- Understanding of other world cultures
- Increased empathy development
- Enhanced connections to heritage cultures
- Promotes global awareness, reduced discrimination, improved self-esteem, and stronger cross-group relationships

**ECONOMIC**
- Greater job opportunities in multiple public and private sectors
- Greater business opportunities
- Bilingualism raises occupational status and earning potential
- Language skills are in high demand for employment with the Federal Government

**Critical Languages**
- Arabic • Hausa • Kurdish
- Mandarin • Pashto • Farsi
- Russian • Somali • Tajik
- Turkish • Urdu
References:


EHLS Professional English New Opportunities Website. [Ehlsprogram.org](http://Ehlsprogram.org)


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