



An Educational Proposal: An Increase of Bilingual Schools in Indiana

Abby Lemming & Lauren Wagoner

College of Arts and Sciences, Marian University Indianapolis

3200 Cold Spring Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46222

ABSTRACT

Due to the benefits of bilingual education through cultural, economic, and pedagogical means, there should be more of these schools in Indiana. Immersion has been proved to be the most effective strategy for English-language learners, and through this immersion, cultural knowledge inherently increases. Seeing that the demand for bilingualism in the job market has exponentially increased in the past ten years, this implementation is crucial for Hoosier citizens.

INTRODUCTION

Bilingual education benefits both Spanish speakers and non-Spanish speakers in the following ways:

- Increases equity
- Improves future job prospects
- Promotes linguistic and cultural competence
- Has pedagogical benefits

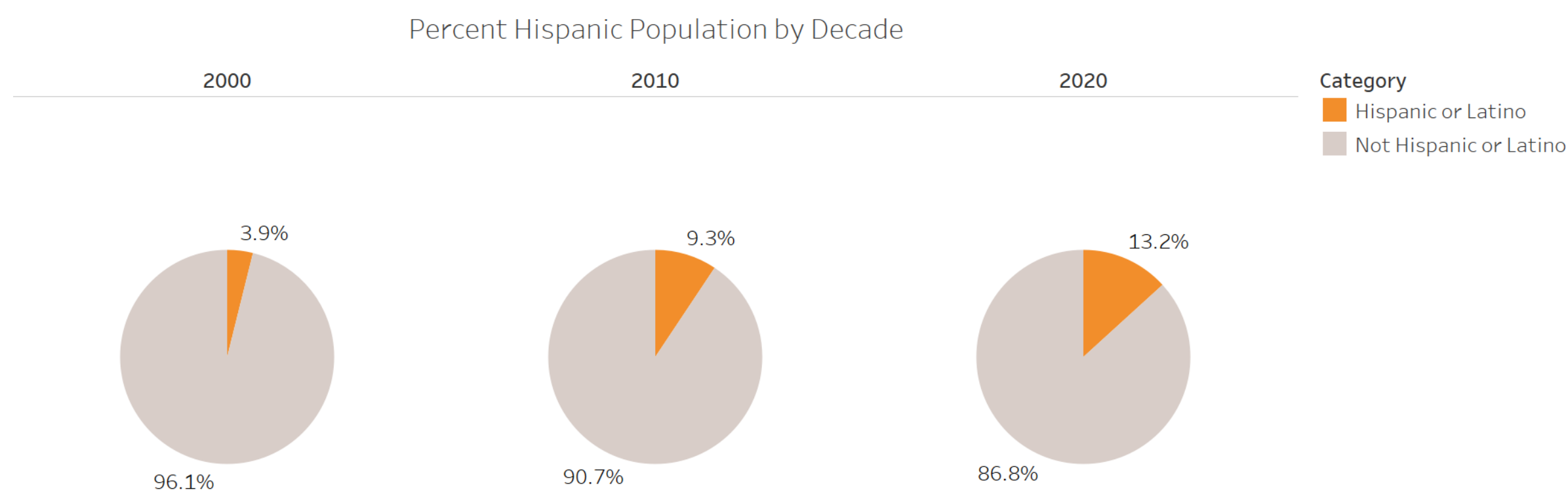
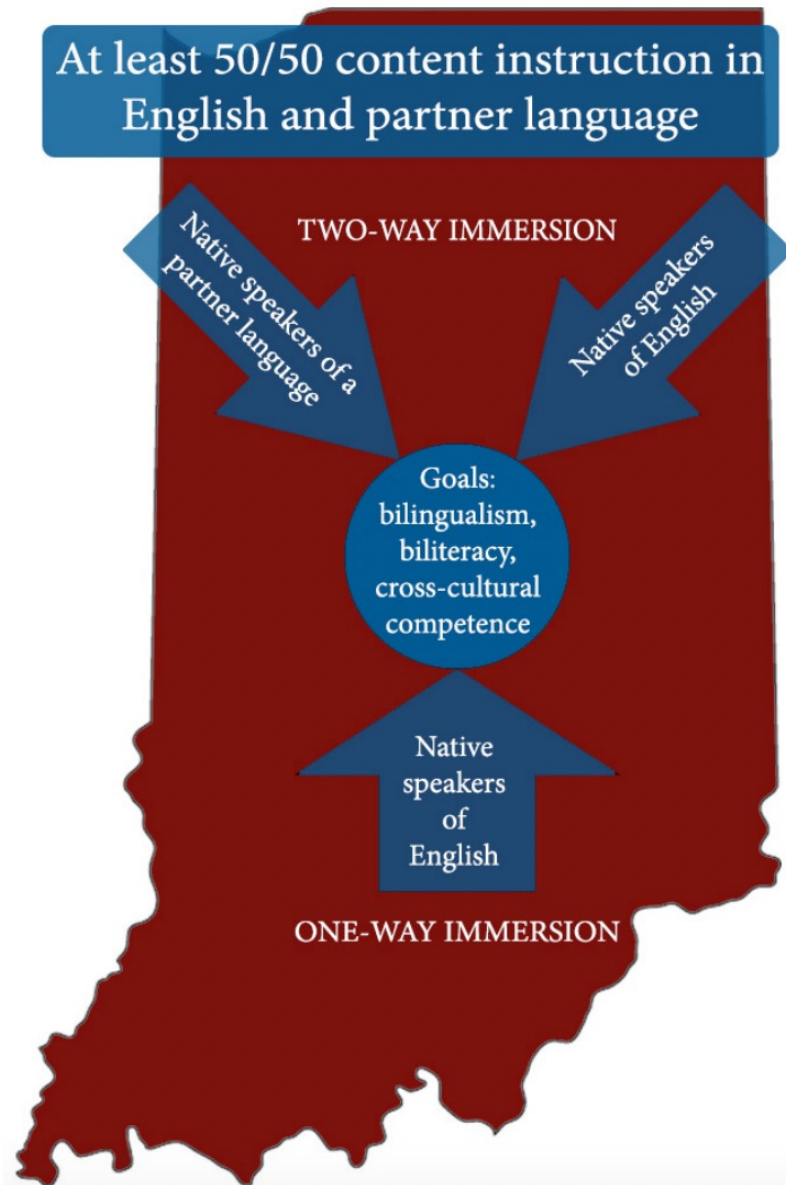


Figure 1. The visual representation of the increase of Hispanic-speakers in Marion County. Bilingual education does not need to lend solely to Hispanic speakers, but this population needs awareness in Indiana, as they amount for a decent portion (Purdue Center for Regional Development).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- partner language group has a higher chance of a better quality of life
 - increase in equity
- the expectation for student growth and achievement stays the same



ECONOMICALLY

- job openings in California requesting applicants with bilingual skills almost doubled from 2010 to 2020
- the increase of the Hispanic-speaking population in Indiana is monumentally rising
- emphasizing the pertinence in Indiana
- retention of the second language is upheld more effectively
- supporting the increase of bilingual academic programs in Indiana for immersion

Figure 9. Job Postings Seeking Bilingual Skills in California (2010-2020)

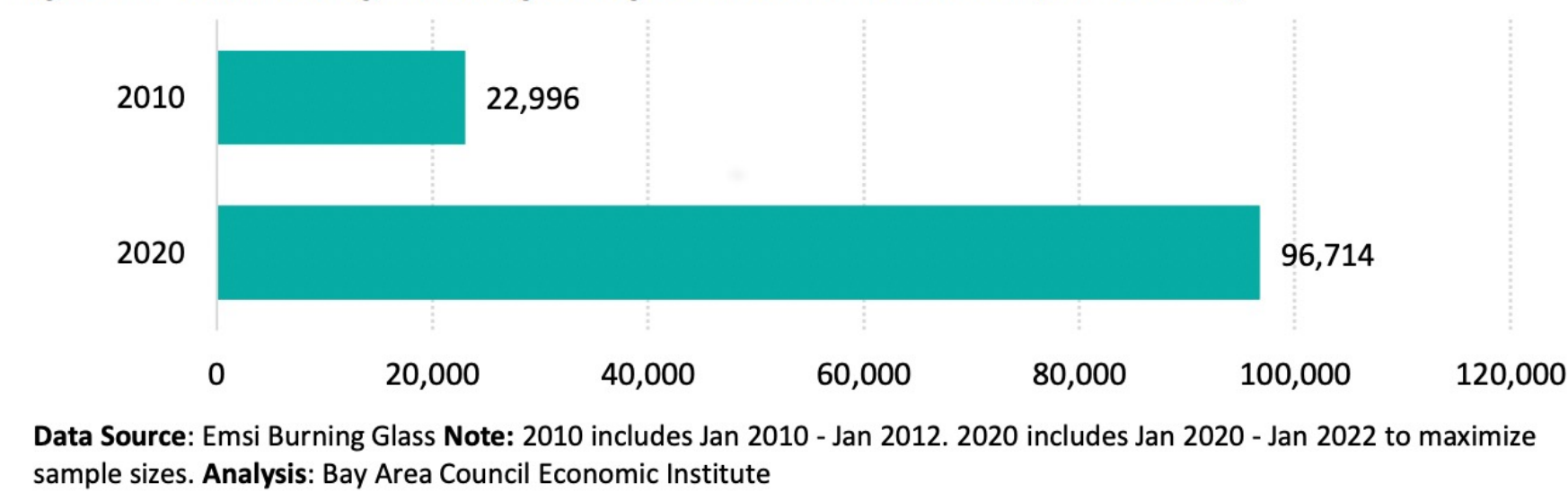


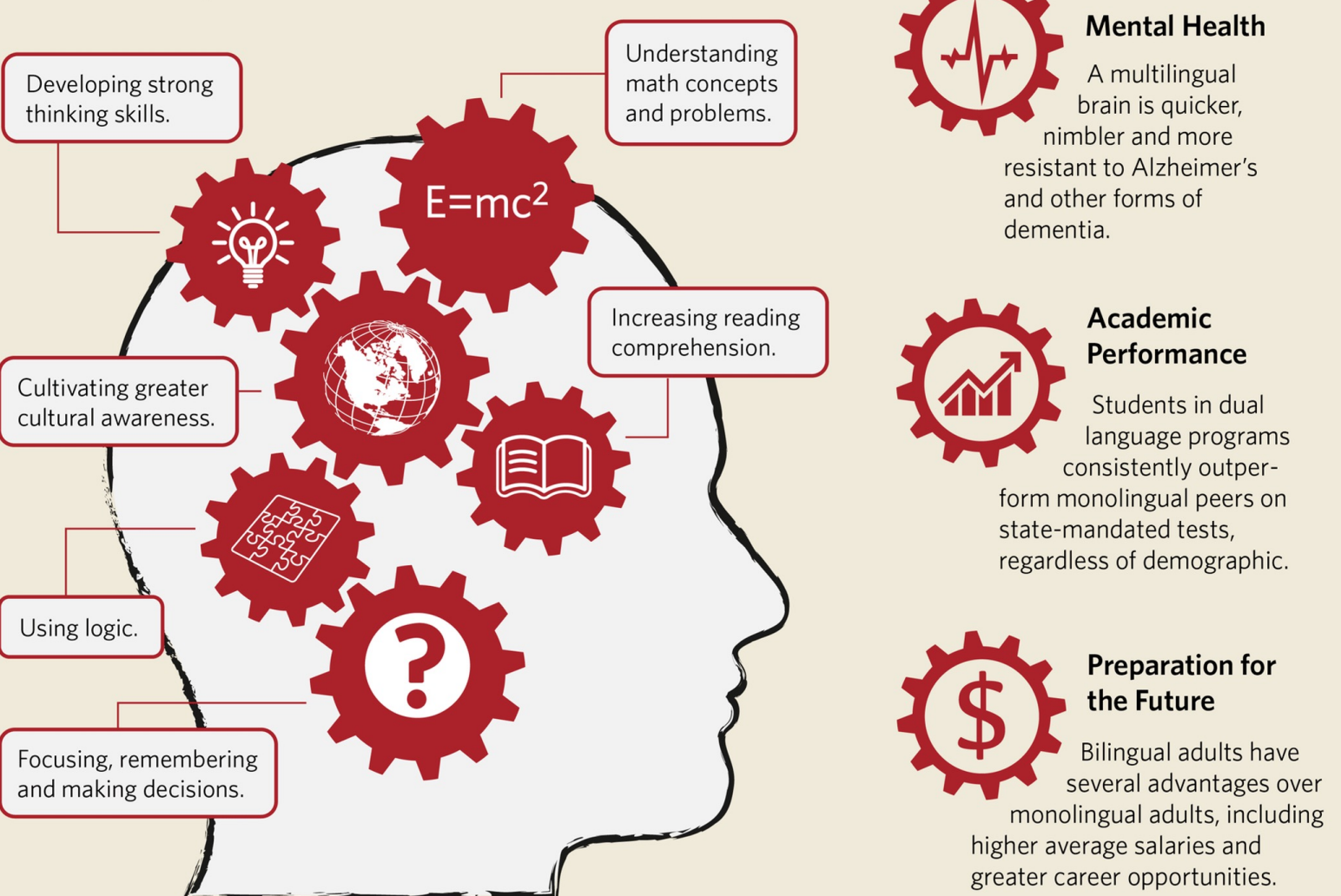
Figure 9. The Bar graph representation of job requests from Kallerman's data analysis.

PEDAGOGICALLY

"It is incontrovertible that it provides the advantage of learning another language and possibly the cognitive benefits of bilingualism. The over-riding conclusion from the available evidence is that bilingual education is a net benefit for all children in the early school years" (Bialstok).

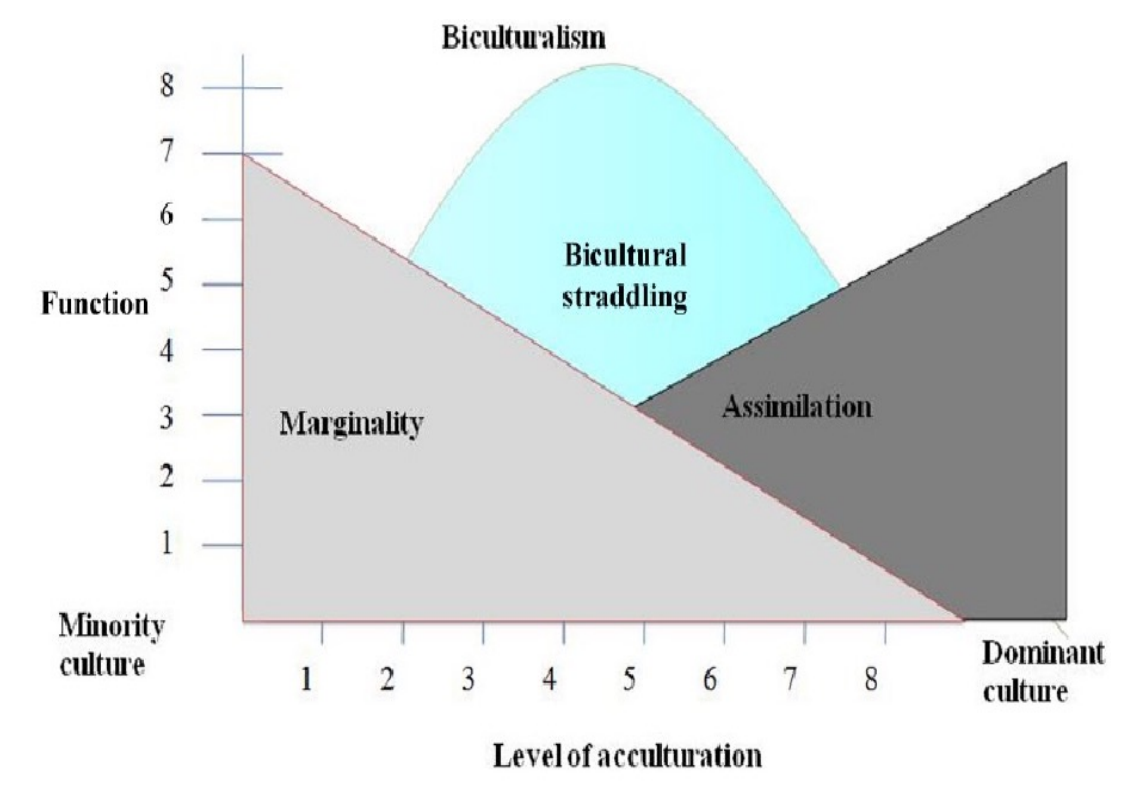
Benefits of a Bilingual Brain

Research shows that **bilingual people** have an easier time with these key brain functions:



- elementary aged students are at the best age to retain a new language
- there are 40 bilingual educational programs in Indiana

CULTURALLY



Cultural Benefits of Bilingualism:

- cognitive traits
- increases employment opportunities
- facilitates business trips abroad
- biculturalism
- acculturation
- unity

CONCLUSIONS

Bilingual education is an irreplaceable tool to:

- enhance the language of students
- create a community of immersion & cultural awareness,
- prepare individuals for their future in the job

Figure 2. Types of Bilingual Education Programs

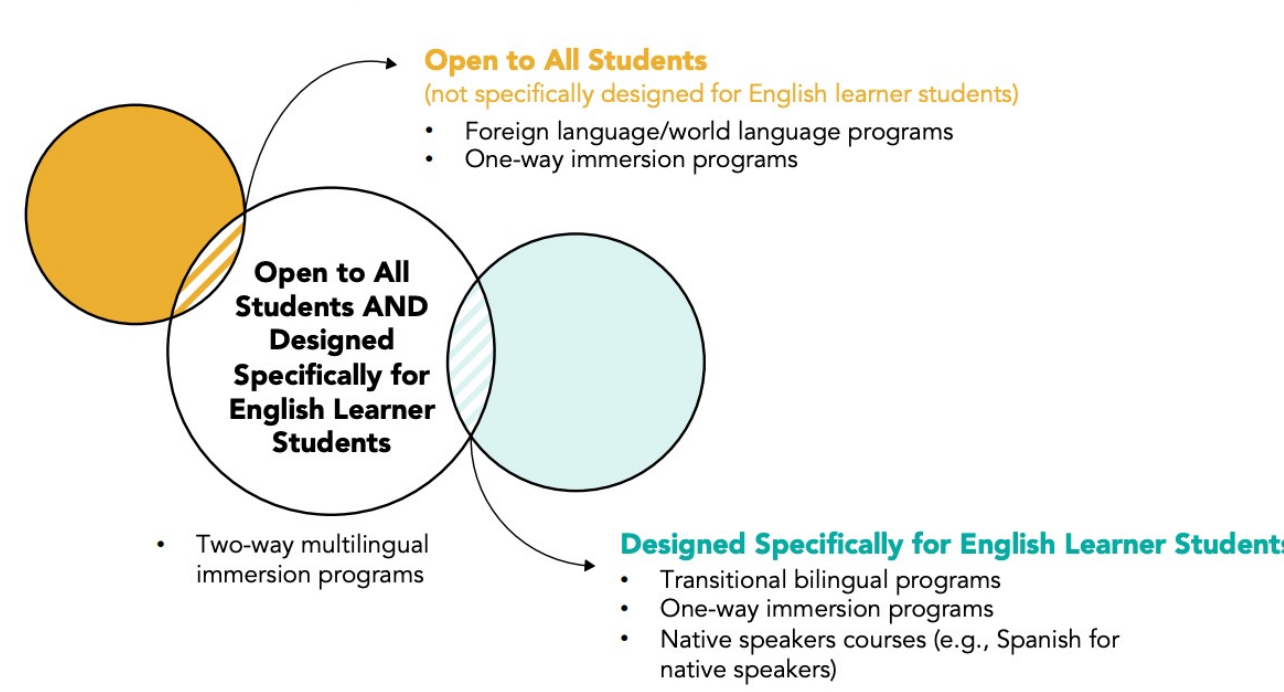


Figure 2. This graphic shows primarily the function of multilingual immersion programs and how they cater to various groups in general, via Bay Area Council.

In Indiana, the demand for bilingual employees will only increase with the Spanish-speaking population influx, so bilingual education should be a priority.

LITERATURE CITED

"Hispanic Population Trends in Indiana and Implications for the Economy - Purdue Center for Regional Development." *Purdue Center for Regional Development - Purdue Center for Regional Development*, 27 Mar. 2023.

Chestnut, Colleen E, and Vensa Dimitrieska. "Implementing Indiana's New Dual Language Immersion Programs: Educator Perspectives." *Center for Evaluation & Education Policy*, Mar. 2018.

REFLECTION/ FRANCISCAN CONNECTION

Dignity of the Individual is the best connection to this proposal because by implementing bilingual education, the wellbeing of a person holistically increases, as they gain awareness, a new language, and tools for their future.