Hispanic Language Heritage:
Retention of Heritage Culture and Language(s)

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Today’s Panelists

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Benefits of Multilingualism

**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

**SOCIOCULTURAL**
- Understanding of other world cultures
- Increased empathy development
- Enhanced connections to heritage culture
- 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
- Mandinka
- Pashto
- Farsi
- Russian
- Somali
- Tagalog
- Turkish
- Urdu

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NEW: Ensuring Continuity Of Learning And Operations

The Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), knows how important it is that districts and schools have access to resources that recognize the unique learning profiles and needs of English learners in order to facilitate their education during unplanned school closures.

These resources are intended for school personnel and institutions of higher education to improve distance learning and the support of English learners and their families during school closures. All resources are free. Additional resources will be added, please check back periodically. To submit resources for consideration, please complete the Remote Learning Resources Submission Form below.

OELA Resources

• NCELA Website: https://ncela.ed.gov/
  • Fact Sheet: English Learners who Speak Spanish as a Home Language
  (link pending) English Learners who Speak Spanish as a Home Language
  • Fact Sheet: English Learners who Speak Somali as a Home Language
  • Fact Sheet: English Learners who Speak Chines as a Home Language
  • Fact Sheet: Dual Language Learners and State-Funded Preschool
  • OELA Podcast: Dual Language Education: Historical U.S. Perspectives
  and Current Practices (coming soon!)
  • OELA Podcast: Integrating Language into Early Childhood Education
  • Practice Teaching Brief: Integrating Language into Early Childhood
  Education
Upcoming OELA Events

• OELA Webinar Series: **Hispanic Language Heritage**
  • Webinar 2: **Language Assets for Career Preparedness** – September 24 @ 4pm ET
  • **Culturally Responsive School Practices to Promote the Success of Hispanic English Learners** – October 8 @ 4pm ET

[https://ncela.ed.gov/Webinars](https://ncela.ed.gov/Webinars)
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