

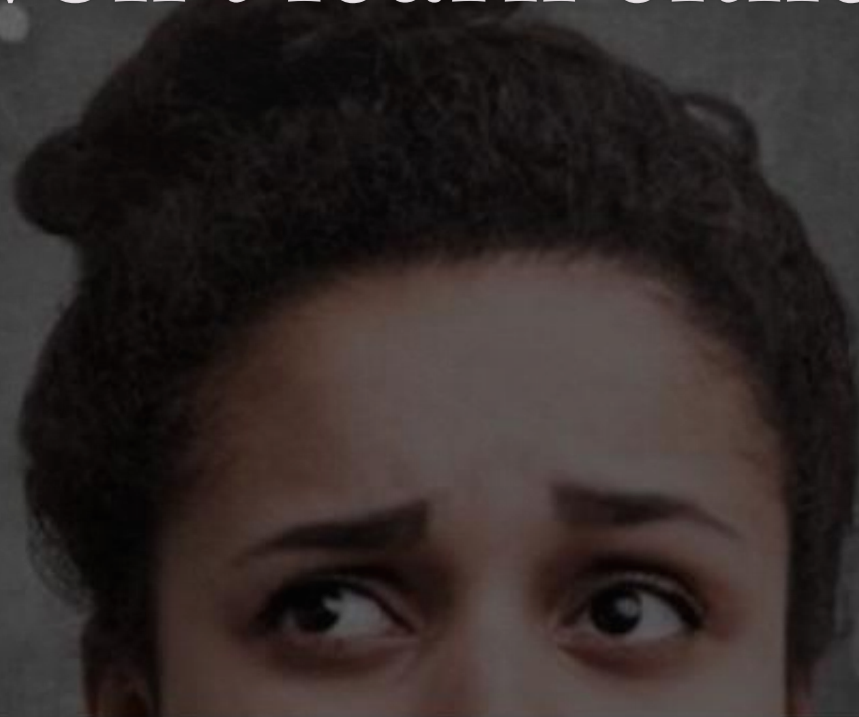


# Myths about bilingualism and bilingual education: Repercussions for education policy

Ilana Umansky

Prevalent myths that have informed policy

If you try to learn two languages,  
you won't learn either well.



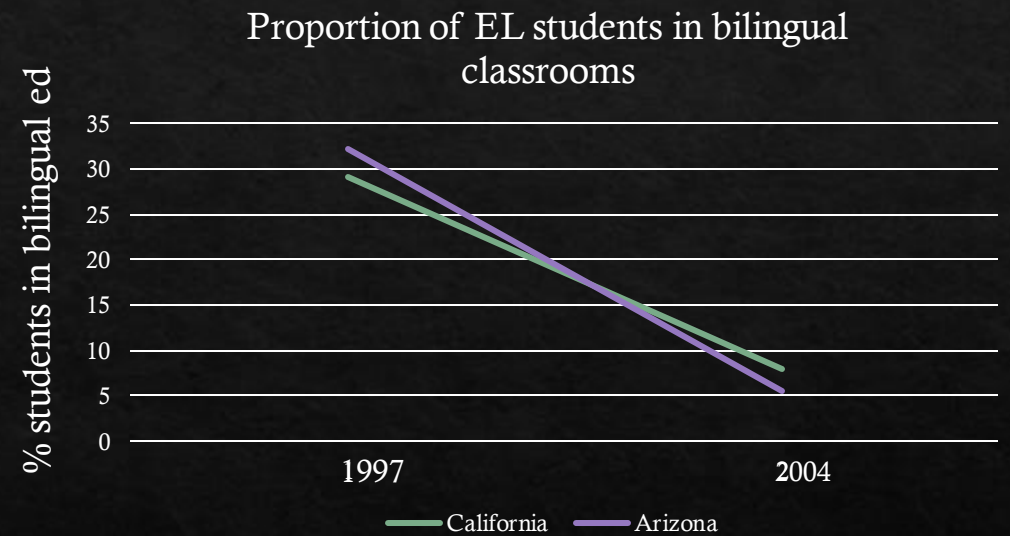
# ”English for the Children” laws

- ◇ California (Proposition 227; 1998)
- ◇ Arizona (Proposition 203; 2000)
- ◇ Massachusetts (Question 2; 2002)

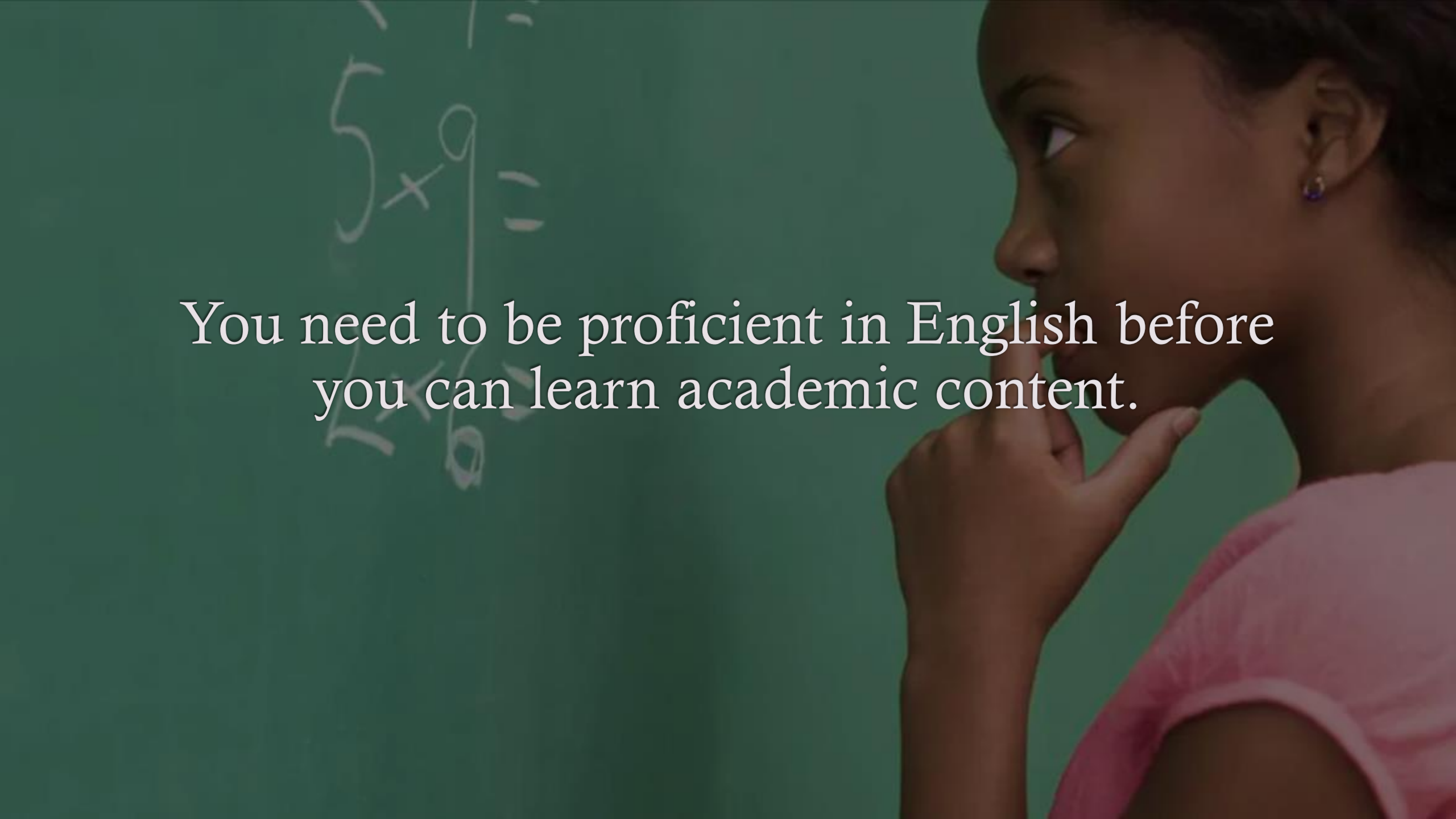


# ”English for the Children” laws

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- ◇ Arizona (Proposition 203; 2000)
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From Parrish, 2006

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a pink shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up. She has a thoughtful expression, with her hand near her chin. The background is a dark green chalkboard with faint white chalk markings, including the equation  $5 \times 9 =$  and  $1 \times 6 =$ .

You need to be proficient in English before  
you can learn academic content.

# Arizona's structured English immersion model

House Bill 2064, 2006

## Integration of the 4 time blocks for first year ELLs and all ELLs below the intermediate proficiency level

Elementary and self-contained middle schools may provide the following services to first year ELLs and all ELLs below the intermediate proficiency level:

1. ELD instruction using the English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards during two "blocks", totaling 4 hours:
  - a. Block 1: 120 minutes of integrated reading, oral English conversation and vocabulary
  - b. Block 2: 120 minutes of integrated writing and grammar
2. Up to 30 minutes of literacy intervention services with non-ELL students that may count towards the 4-hour requirement if those services meet the instructional needs of the ELL student.

## Intermediate Level ELLs in at least their 2nd year

Elementary and self-contained middle schools may integrate required instructional domains and reduce, up to 1 hour, the time required within the SEI Models for ELLs who:

- Demonstrate overall proficiency at the intermediate level on the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA), and
- Are in at least their 2nd year of English language development (ELD) instruction.

For those ELLs for whom flexibility is appropriate, ELD instruction using ELP standards may be delivered during two "blocks", totaling 3 hours:

1. Block 1: 90 minutes of integrated writing and grammar
2. Block 2: 90 minutes of integrated reading, oral English conversation and vocabulary

# Arizona's structured English immersion model

House Bill 2064, 2006

- ❖ Students were unable to exit 4-hour ELD block in one year
- ❖ Students were unable to accumulate credits required for graduation while in ELD block
- ❖ Students often failed academic classes after exiting ELD block due to lack of academic preparation

Karen et al, 2010

*Integration of the 4 time blocks for 1st year ELLs and all ELLs below the intermediate proficiency level*  
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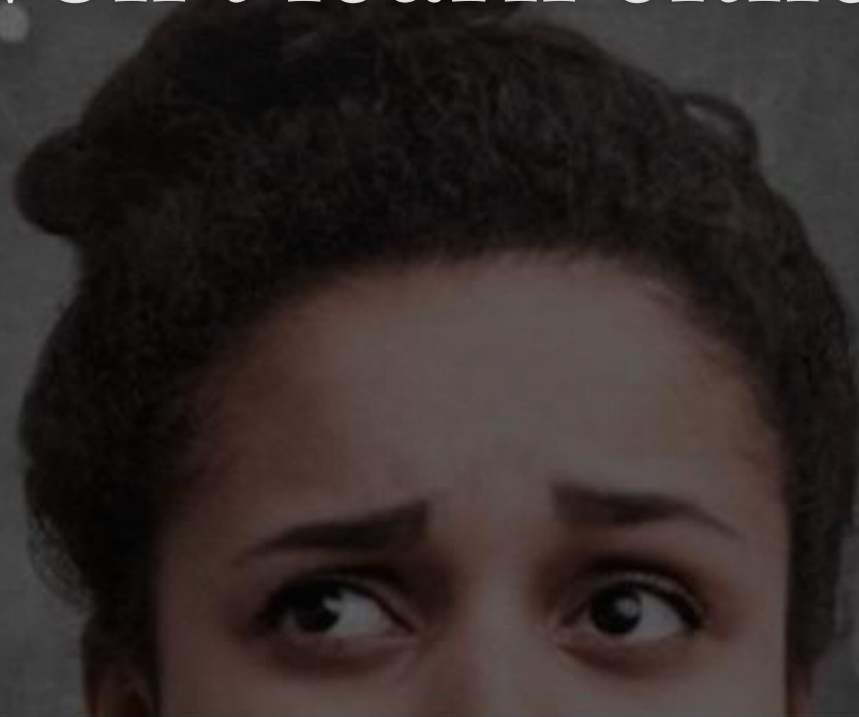
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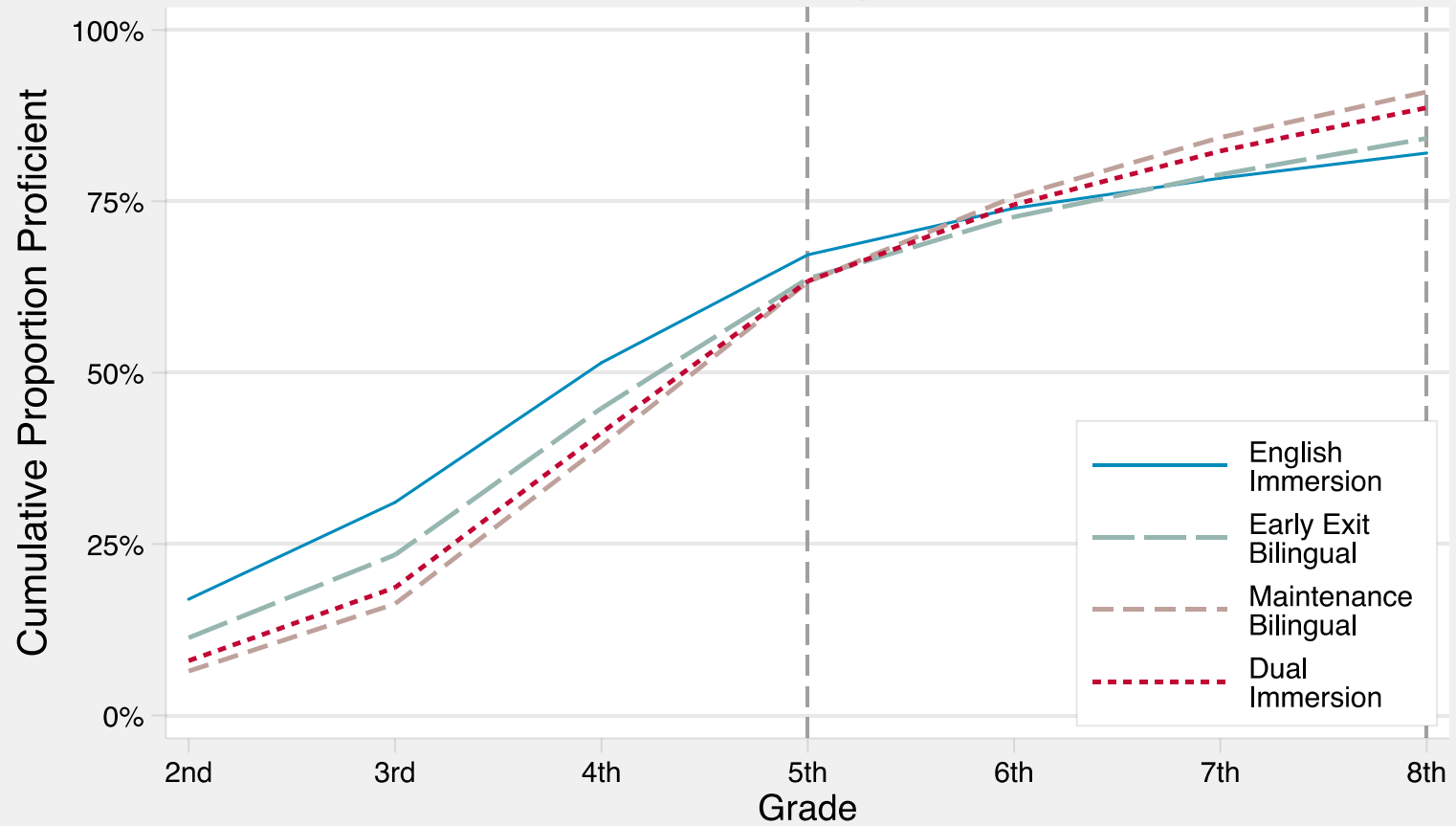
What does research tell us about the accuracy of these myths?

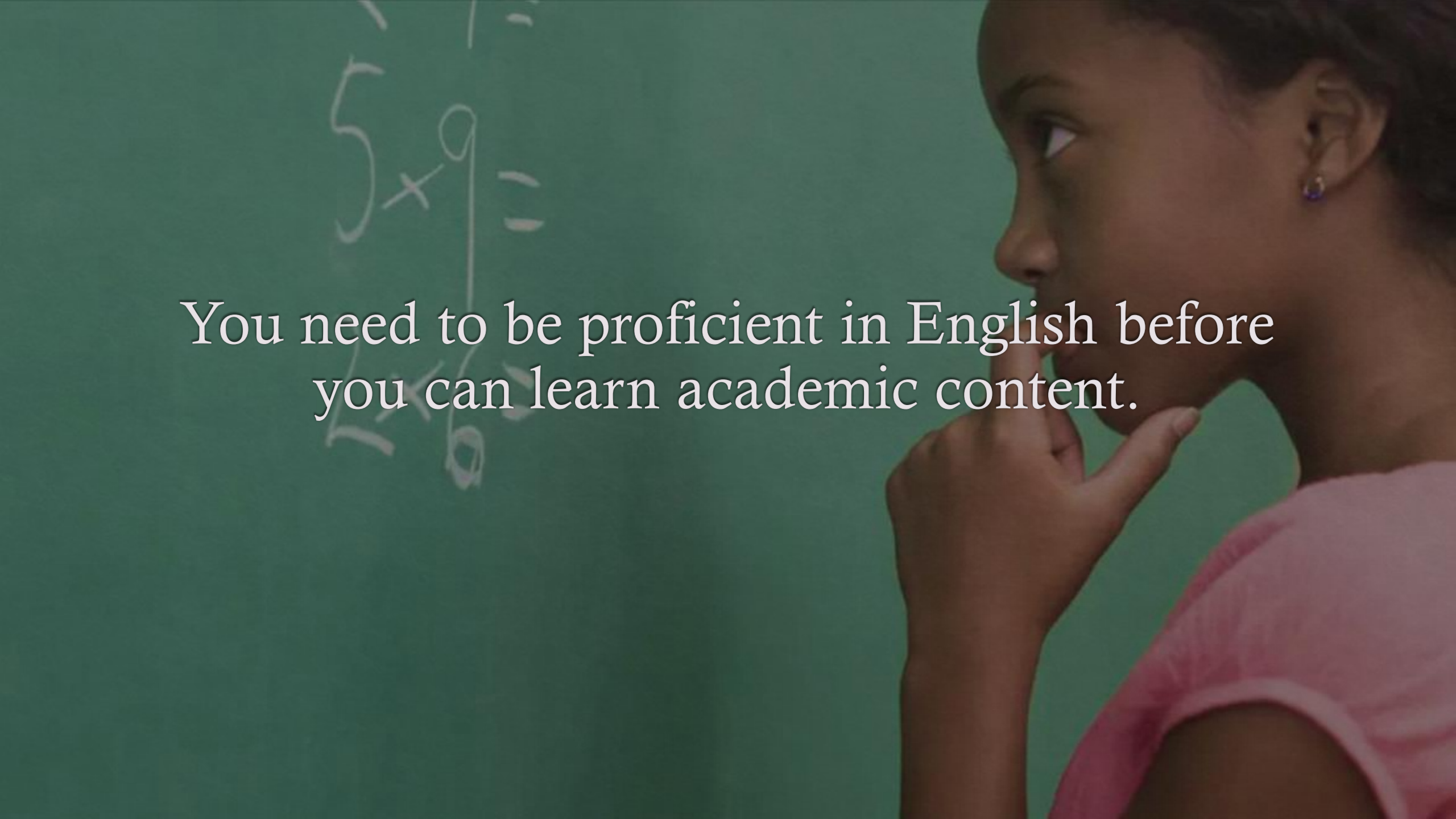
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Over time, more students in bilingual programs successfully learn English compared to those in English-only programs

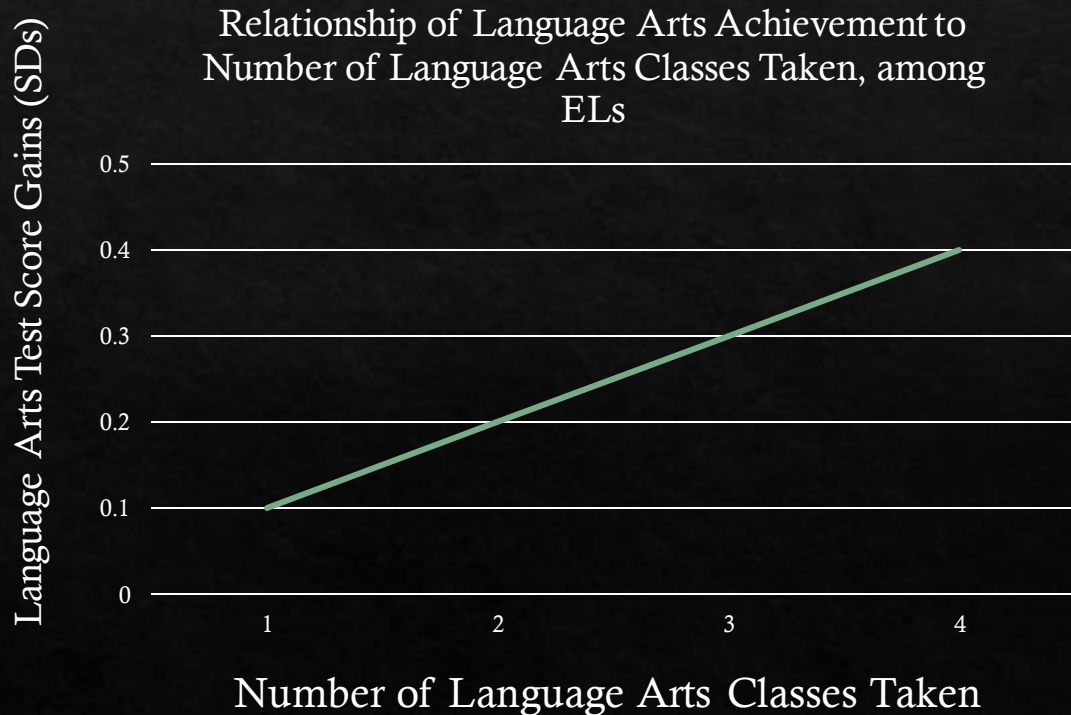
Cumulative Proportion of Latino EL Kindergarten Entrants Reaching English Proficiency (as Measured by the CELDT), by Grade & Program, 2002-2012  
Full Sample



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a pink shirt, is shown in profile from the chest up. She has a thoughtful expression, with her hand resting near her chin. The background is a green chalkboard with faint white chalk markings, including the equation  $5 \times 9 =$  and some other illegible numbers and symbols.

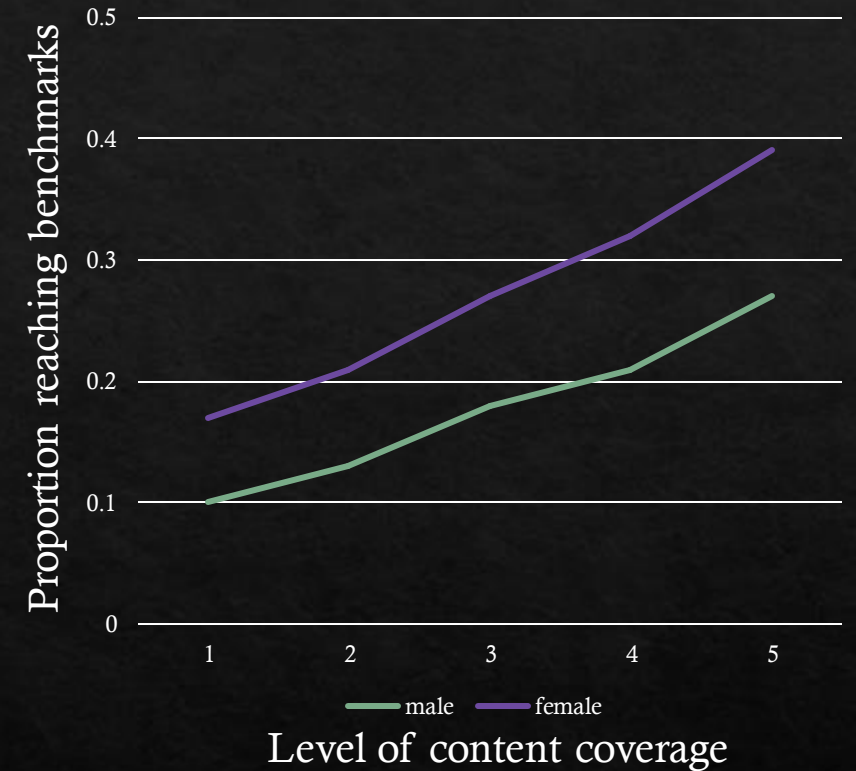
You need to be proficient in English before  
you can learn academic content.

EL-classified students learn more when they have more access to academic instruction.



[work in progress]

Relationship of Writing Content Coverage to Language Arts Achievement, among 6th Grade English Learners



Aguirre-Muñoz & Boscardin, 2008

Policy shifts that are grounded in research

# AZ's 4-hour ELD block unanimously overturned in 2019

Senate Bill 1014, 2019

## Arizona To Offer New Flexibility to English Learners

BLOG POST



By Amaya Garcia

Feb. 12, 2019

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OVERVIEW PRESS RELEASES PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST FORM

Office of Communications

### 4-hour block

Published: February 14th, 2019

#### Superintendent Hoffman Applauds Passing of English Learner Bill

Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman today praised the signing of SB 1014 into law, which eliminated the stringent 4-hour state-mandated block of English language instruction. The law also provides schools and teachers of English Learner (EL) students more flexibility to develop instructional models that best fit their individual students.

"For the past two decades, Arizona's multilingual students have suffered from a misguided policy that has left them isolated, undereducated and unprepared to enter the workforce," Superintendent Hoffman said. "The passage of this legislation will give tens of thousands of EL students a greater chance at success in school and in life, and their success is the success of all Arizonans. I applaud the governor and legislature for supporting this bill, as well as the advocates who fought so hard to make this happen."



# California Multilingual Education Act, 2016

- ◆ Repealed bilingual education ban
- ◆ Authorizes districts to establish bilingual and dual immersion programs for ELs and non-ELs



# California Multilingual Education Act, 2016

## Prop 58 Quick Facts

### The Brief

Prop 58 helps students learn English as quickly as possible and expands opportunities for English speakers to master a second language.

01



02

### The Research

Research shows that students participating in programs taught in more than one language attain higher levels of academic achievement.

### The Power

Proposition 58 gives parents and school districts local control to choose the most effective instruction methods for their students.

03



04

### The Support

Local school boards  
Teachers  
Parents  
Employers

### The Action

Vote YES on Prop 58 and take action at [supportprop58.com/support](http://supportprop58.com/support)

05



- ❖ Repealed bilingual education ban
- ❖ Authorizes districts to establish bilingual and dual immersion programs for ELs and non-ELs

PROPOSITION 58  
LEAVES IT UP TO  
PARENTS  
AND  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS  
TO DECIDE

PROP 58  
HELPS STUDENTS  
LEARN ANOTHER  
LANGUAGE



What might proactive policies look like that are grounded in research and understanding?

