

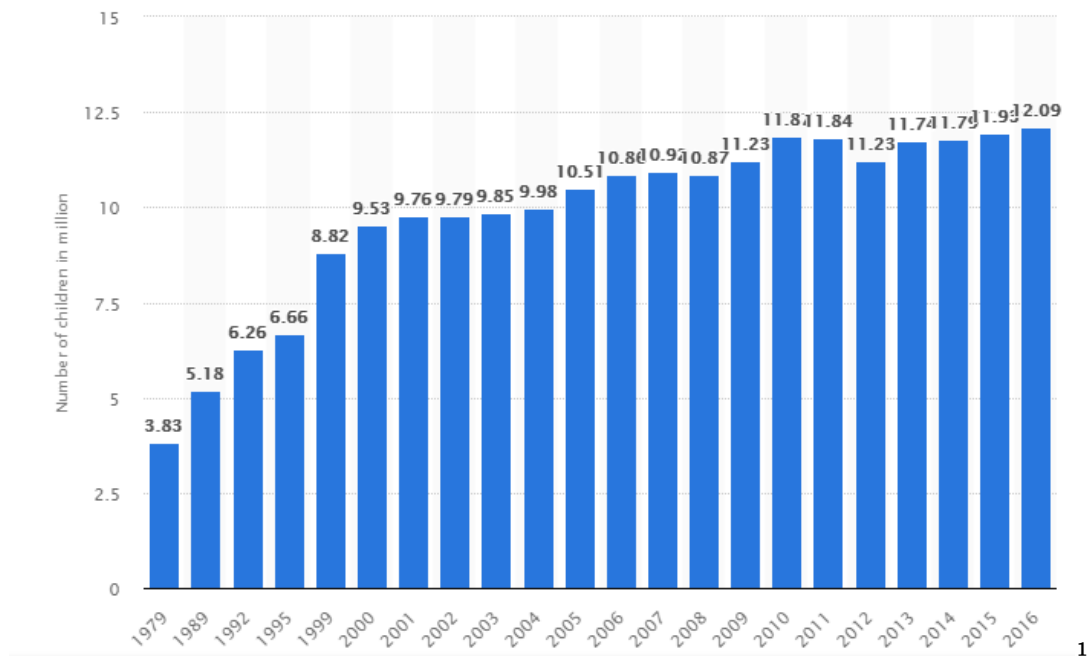
A call for greater  
understanding

**¿Por Que  
No Los Dos?**



# WAKE UP AND SMELL THE DIVERSITY.

Learning is just as much about interpersonal understanding among students and teachers as it is about the curriculum. In terms of that vital connection, one hurdle in particular has confounded the academic community for decades: bilingual education. Language, at the most fundamental level, defines the looking-glass through which students perceive facts and sensations. As of 2016, 12.09 million us kids speak a non-English language at home.<sup>1</sup>



Not surprisingly, Spanish ranks #1 with 41,017,620 students code-switching to it after each school day.<sup>2</sup> Collectively, the dialects of Chinese hold the #2 slot with 3,462,091.<sup>2</sup> Despite the best efforts of teachers and school administrators, many students are simply not getting English-language reinforcement in an extracurricular context. At **Por Que No Los Dos** (also known as **The PQNLD Foundation**), we believe that previous efforts to address this issue have fallen short.



# LET'S REEVALUATE THE ESL SYSTEM—TOGETHER.

As long as there have been immigrants in the United States, lingual integration has existed in some form or another, but the issue came to a head in the mid-1990s. Texas District Judge Samuel C. Kiser rekindled the nationwide debate when he likened domestic Spanish speaking to child abuse.<sup>3</sup> Contributors to the ensuing dialogue included Newt Gingrich, who asserted, “Without English as a common language, there is no [American] civilization” and former Speaker of the House Bob Dole, who referred to the official institutionalization of the English language as “the ticket to the American dream.”<sup>3</sup>

More recently, the University of Southern California’s Karen Orellana conducted a case study on the state of California—in which English is the official language.<sup>4</sup> Through her research, Orellana found that language learning comes as a result of the interaction between four factors: (1) academic growth, cognitive growth, language acquisition skill, and sociocultural interactions.<sup>4</sup>

Throughout the history of American education, sociocultural exchanges for students have mostly been a one-way trade-offs; students without English proficiency receive the boon of an English-language education while native English-speakers benefit only from their mother tongue. Why can’t the exchange be two ways? **Why not both? ¿Por que no los dos?**



# HAY UN CAMINO MEJOR. (THERE'S A BETTER WAY.)

**The PQNLD Foundation** exists to provide a new and improved option for two-way bilingual education. Through our program, native English-speakers can study a non-English language over the summer, in turn becoming peer-tutors for students with limited English proficiency. Parents who enroll their child in a PQNDL course can do so knowing that they are contributing to the development of a struggling—likely underprivileged—ESL student *and* their own child simultaneously.

Training in two languages has been shown to enhance cognitive control and working memory.<sup>5</sup> Among your school communities, parents of fledgling drivers will be thrilled to know that proficient bilingualism can also have a positive effect on motor skills and on one's ability to function in unpredictable scenarios!<sup>6</sup> In addition to the utilitarian advantages of bilingualism, consider the life-changing experiences that that increased capacity for communication can unlock. International travel becomes much more meaningful—more personal—to someone who belongs to two or more linguistic communities. Even in one's everyday circle of influence, native English-speakers willing to expand their horizons of speech can find rewarding interactions and opportunities unavailable to the average monoglot.

The world may be shrinking because of technology, but opportunities for multicultural connections are expanding, and America's collective student body can be at the forefront of that movement. Consider seeking out the local PQNLD representative in your area, and prepare your son or daughter for another world of possibilities.



## Sources

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