The GIFT, The GAP & The GANAS

Dr. Jennifer Trujillo
U.S. Demographics

- Total Number of Students: 5.2 million
- Young Learners: 1 in 4 Kdg
- Linguistic Diversity: 325 languages
- Qualified Educators: 21% of Teachers
- Time to acquire ACADEMIC English: 5-7 years
- ELL Growth Rate: 51%
# Linguistic Diversity

## Top 10 Home Languages of English Language Learners in USA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Learners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>3,582,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>85,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese*</td>
<td>69,821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>51,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hmong</td>
<td>46,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haitian</td>
<td>33,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagalog</td>
<td>26,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somali</td>
<td>19,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navajo</td>
<td>10,507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of **50+ distinct languages** were reported by states **as one of their top five languages** spoken by EL students.

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Global English

- 700 million speakers
- Non-native speakers outnumber native speakers by a ratio of 3:1
- Used across industries around the globe and originates from all over the world

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Shifts

- Phonetic shifts
- Syntactic shifts
- Semantic shifts
- Borrowed Words

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English is Complex

Social Language

➢ Multiple Meaning Words
Ex. “Run”

Academic Language

➢ Multiple Meaning Words
Ex. “Name”

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Research Point: Language Acquisition

Figure 1.5: Elements of Language in the Brain

- L1
  - Sound system
  - Vocabulary
  - Syntax
  - Conversational styles

- L2
  - Sound system
  - Vocabulary
  - Syntax
  - Conversational styles

Central Processing Center
- Deep structure of language
- Universal rules of grammar
- Life experiences
- Cognitive development

(Ten Key Points Second Language Acquisition, Pearson 2013)
The GAP

ELLs are under-identified and are under-enrolled in gifted and talented programs.

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Role of Primary Language

- Encourage primary language use at home and in the community
- Perceive language as an asset, not a barrier
- Understand that culture and language are interrelated
- Understand that culture and language are integral facets of students’ identities
- Foster the growth of language to facilitate transference of skills to L2
Visibility and Connections

Who is Thomas Edison?

Who is Guillermo González Camarena?
The GANAS

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Diverse Contexts

Crab Mentality

Support

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New Opportunities

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The Gain

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References


