



Cranston is PRIMED for Dual Language Programs

Cranston Public School District has a significant concentration of multilingual learners (MLLs) in Rhode Island, yet there are no bilingual or dual-language programs established in Cranston. The data is clear: outcomes are better, demand is high, and current programming isn't keeping up. **Cranston students deserve an education that centers the community's multilingual strengths.** Its high school Heritage Spanish program provides a strong foundation upon which to build. With coordinated action and strong policy initiatives, Cranston can become a leader in language education in the state.



Why Dual Language

Dual language programs serve both MLLs and non-MLLs and teach academic content through two languages (at least 50% of the school day is spent learning in the non-English partner language, such as Spanish). The aim is for all students to become bilingual and biliterate, have high academic achievement, and develop cross-cultural competence.

Cranston at a glance

11.9%

of students are MLLs in Cranston Schools

the MLL student population increased by

233%

since 2015

demonstrating the incredible need for bilingual education in Cranston

25.3%

of Cranston residents

live in multilingual households, with Spanish, Italian, Khmer (Cambodian), Chinese, & Portuguese widely spoken

Dual Language Programs Have Been Proven To



1. Improve reading proficiency



2. Increase high school graduation rates & likelihood of attending college

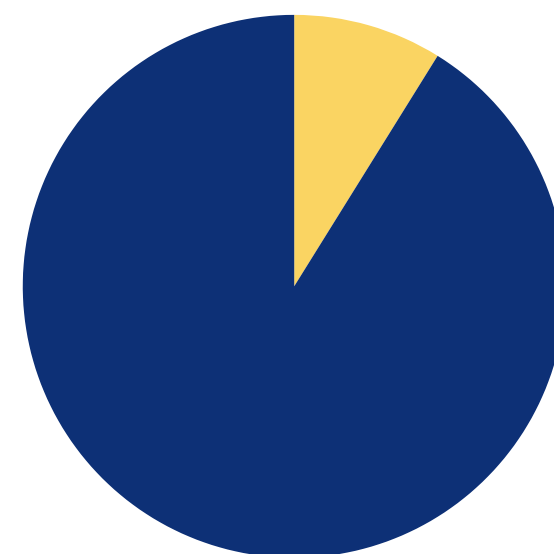


3. Improve economic outcomes for multilingual learners

In Rhode Island...

- Multilingual learners (MLL) make up **14%** of the total student population – 19,674 students.*
- Multilingual learners (MLL) in RI have increased by **92%** in the past 10 years.*
- Only 1,743 MLL students in RI are enrolled in dual language programs**

Enrolled in Dual Language Programs **8.9%**



Not Enrolled **91.1%**

*RIDE Data on Multilingual Learners
**RI Kids Count 2025 Factbook

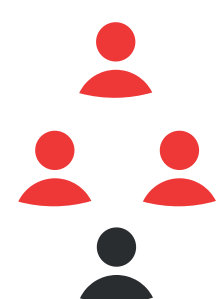
The Outcomes Are Better

MLL Students Meeting RICAS Standards

	ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
Cranston Public Schools	4.9%	4.8%	1.9%
Levinton Dual Language School in Providence	13.8%	28.9%	13.6%

Sense of Belonging Drives Better Outcomes

Dual language programs build connection and confidence, reducing chronic absenteeism and supporting stronger academic outcomes.



28.3% of CPS MLL students are chronically absent

compared to only

15.7% at Levinton Dual Language School (pre-K-5)

WHY IT MATTERS

Dual-language education is one of the most effective strategies for improving academic outcomes, graduation rates, and long-term economic mobility, especially in districts with high multilingual learner populations like Cranston.

*Source: RIDE Report Card | School Year: 2024-25 | LEA: Cranston, Providence

Research shows dual-language education leads to stronger academic and economic outcomes for multilingual and monolingual students alike.

**Source: American Councils for International Education / Stanford CREDO





High Need, Limited Access

High Multilingual Need

Cranston is designated a high-incidence multilingual learner (MLL) district, meaning:

- 250+ multilingual learners, or
- 20% or more of total student enrollment

Cranston meets and exceeds this threshold.

Opportunity for Dual Language Access

Cranston offers no dual language programs, forcing students to seek them in neighboring cities or charter schools. One of these nearby schools, **Leviton Dual Language School in Providence** serves students in grades K–5. Cranston's HS Heritage Spanish program is strong; united with a K–8 dual/heritage language program would provide a comprehensive K–12 trajectory.

Access has not kept pace with community need.

Local Leadership Can Close the Access Gap

Local leaders play a critical role in establishing access to dual-language education through planning, policy alignment, and advocacy for state investment.

Passing the **Support and Access to Bilingual Education (SABE) Act** would give districts like Cranston the tools to:



Plan and expand dual-language programs



Invest in multilingual teacher pathways



Meet current community and workforce needs

Take Action for Multilingual Learners

- Form a district dual language task force
- Pass the Cranston bilingual education resolution
- Come to the State House to testify in support of the SABE Act

Support and Access to Bilingual Education (SABE) Act

Representative Morales (HB 7389) and Senator McKenney (SB 2555)

1. Investing \$650,000 in funding multilingual teacher certifications and creating job opportunities for underemployed Rhode Islanders.
2. Investing \$300,000 in developing dual language programs across the state.

“This bill isn’t just about scholarships—it’s about investing in people like me....It’s about creating a sustainable teacher pipeline that ensures every student has the support they need to succeed.”

– Felix Fonseca Garcia, a RIC World Languages Student Teacher