WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS & ENGLISH LEARNERS

Currently, Arizona language policy prohibits English learners (ELs) from enrolling in dual language programs (programs that deliver instruction in two languages) until they have been reclassified as fluent English speakers.

MYTHS:

1. ELs who are provided with dual language programming academically outperform English speakers.

FACTS:

1. ELs who are provided with dual language programming academically outperform English speakers.
2. It can take around 7 years for ELs to become proficient in English.
3. ELLs who are taught academic content (e.g., math, science, language arts, etc.) in their first language build skills that enable them to transfer the information into English.
4. There are cognitive and social benefits to being bilingual.

WHAT’S THE TAKEAWAY?

English learners need access to dual language programs to help develop bilingualism and biliteracy in both their home language and in English.

Sources: https://bit.ly/epc-dual-language-programs