

Measure: Dual Language Access

What is Dual Language Access?

Dual Language Access is a measure of the number of dual, heritage, and Tribal language programs a district offers to students and families. In these programs, students in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 learn content, language, literacy, and culture in English and a partner language such as Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Japanese, Korean, American Sign Language, or Russian. This measure also includes heritage language programs, which are generally focused on developing and maintaining a student's native language, and Tribal language programs that are designed in collaboration with Washington's federally recognized Tribes to revitalize local Tribal languages for Native American students.

Why is this measure important?

Washington state has a diverse student population and in 2025, nearly 15% of the state's student population was eligible for English language development services. It is important that these multilingual learners have access to curriculum and instruction in a language that they can understand while also working to gain proficiency in English. Dual Language Programs also allow native English speakers to become fluent in a second language. For students participating in a heritage language program, they have the opportunity to retain the language of their ancestors.

How is the data used?

Dual language access data are used to measure growth in expanding opportunities for all Washington students to participate in dual, heritage, and Tribal language programs. Each new program represents hours of planning, preparation, professional learning, and collaboration in a school or district to ensure effective program development and implementation.

What does the data show?

The number of dual language programs continues to increase in Washington state. Between the 2023–2024 school year and the 2024–2025 school year, 14 additional dual language programs were made available to students.



Number of Dual, Heritage, and Tribal Language Programs Statewide

School Year	Number of Dual Language Programs	Number of Heritage Language Programs	Number of Tribal Language Programs	Total Number of Programs
2023–24	161	108	43	312
2024–25	171	112	43	326

What are the business rules for calculating Dual Language Access?

The calculation for Dual Language Access is the total number of programs that provide instruction in language, literacy, and content in English and another language, often spoken by members of the local community or Tribe. Programs included in this figure can include dual language programs, heritage language programs, and Tribal language programs.

Additional Resources

[OSPI Dual Language Webpage](#)

[Dual Language Education: What Families Should Know](#)

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