REGION XII DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN MIGRANT SEASONAL HEAD START PROGRAMS

Head Start programs reflect our nation's growing cultural diversity by including dual language learners (DLLs). The Office of Head Start promotes the full and effective inclusion of families with children who are DLLs. This overview focuses on data regarding home languages, program enrollment, and language proficiency of Head Start staff serving children and families.

Head Start program(s): The Head Start program includes Head Start preschool programs, which primarily serve 3- and-4-year-old children, and Early Head Start programs for infants, toddlers, and pregnant people.

Dual Language Learners (DLLs): Children who are learning two or more languages at the same time or learning a second language while continuing to develop their first language. (Terms, 45 CFR §1305.2)

According to the 2022-2023 school year Program Information Report (PIR),

Approximately 27,000 children and families are enrolled in Region XII Head Start programs.

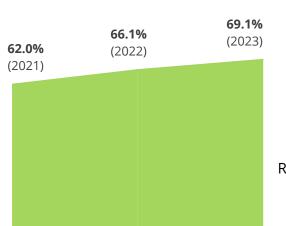
Over 9,500 enrolled children and families in Region XII are dual language learners.

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enrolled children and families in Region XII are dual language learners³

*PIR: Provides comprehensive data on the services, staff, children, and families in Head Start programs.

DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNER ENROLLMENT RATE



Over the last 3 years, there has been a rise in the enrollment of DLLs in Region XII Head Start programs.

From 2021 to 2023, DLL enrollment in Region XII Head Start programs increased



Did you know ...

Learning more than one language has been proven to be beneficial for DLLs, improving brain development and school performance, creating more job opportunities, and encouraging an overall positive and **respectful** attitude toward different languages and cultures.1

Did you know ...

Nearly, **one-third** of children in the United States from birth to age 5 are DLLs, consistent with the national rate of DLLs enrolled in Head Start programs.²

DLLs **All Other** 7,438,000 Young Children 15,282,000



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REGION XII: COMPARING DUAL LANGUAGE STAFF LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND ENROLLEES' PRIMARY HOME LANGUAGES

Over 31.57% of Region XII Head Start staff are proficient in languages other than English.

The proportions of multilingual staff largely match the proportions of enrolled children/pregnant people who are DLLs across language families.

Language Groups spoken by Enrolled Children/Pregnant People and Head Start Staff (excluding English: based on 2023 PIR data)

	(excluding l	English; based on 2023 PIR data)
Coopiek		32.08%
Spanish		59.10%
Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages	0.05%	(includes languages like Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, and others)
	0.01%	
European & Slavic Languages	0.07%	(includes languages like German, French, Italian, Croatian, Yiddish, Portuguese, Russian, and others)
	0.03%	
East Asian Languages	0.07%	(includes languages like Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and others)
	0.00%	
African Languages	0.00%	(includes languages like Swahili, Wolof, and others)
	0.01%	
Caribbean Languages	0.13%	(includes languages like Haitian-Creole as well as patois and dialects)
	0.90%	
Native North American / Alaska Native Languages	0.00%	
	0.00%	(includes languages like Eskimo-Aleut, Haida, Tsimshian, and others)
Native Central American, South American & Mexican Languages	0.13%	(includes languages like Mixteco, Quichean, and others)
	4.57%	
Pacific Island Languages	0.02%	(includes languages like Palauan, Fijian, and others)
	0.00%	(metales tangueses the Futural, Fijun, and others)
American Sign Language	0.00%	
	0.01%	Staff Children/ Pregnant People

Did you know ...

Over 35,000 Head Start³ staff speak two or more languages, fostering an **inclusive environment for DLLs**.³ Effective communication in native languages enhances cognitive development, social and emotional development, and thrive in Head Start and beyond, supporting diverse and multilingual communities.⁴



Did you know ...

The Head Start Program Performance Standards require the use of evidence-based teaching practices for English and home language development.

Sources:

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1 Kroll, Judith F., and Paola E. Dussias. "The Benefits of Multilingualism to the Personal and Professional Development of Residents of the US." Foreign Language Annals 50, no. 2 (Summer 2017): 248–259.

2 Park, Maki, Jacob Hofstetter, and Ivana Tú Nhi Giang. "Overlooked but Essential: Language Access in Early Childhood Programs." Migration Policy Institute (October 2022).

3 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Head Start. Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report - 2022 - National Level. Washington, DC, October 2022.

4 Bloom, Howard S., and Christina Weiland. "Quantifying Variation in Head Start Effects on Young Children's Cognitive and Socio-emotional Skills Using Data from the National Head Start Impact Study." MDRC (March 2015).