

2021 CANVASS OF DUAL LANGUAGE AND IMMERSION (DLI) PROGRAMS IN US PUBLIC SCHOOLS

American Councils Research Center (ARC) is pleased to announce the results of a systematic national canvass of Dual Language Immersion (DLI) programs in the U.S. DLI is a type of educational program that uses instruction in both a native and secondary language to expand learning opportunities for inclusive student populations.

Co-Director of ARC, Dr. Robert Slater, said about the study, “The canvass of DLI programs is a vital first step in understanding the reach of these programs across the educational spectrum. Now that we know more about the number of programs we need to move forward with additional information on enrollments and program models.”

Language	Number of DLI Programs	Language	Number of DLI Programs
Spanish	2936	Polish	5
Chinese	312	Haitian Creole	3
French	182	Urdu	2
Japanese	37	Yup'ik	2
German	31	Greek	2
Portuguese	27	Lakħóta	2
Hawaiian	27	Lushootseed	2
Korean	23	Makah	2
Russian	17	Diné	2
Italian	7	ASL	1
Hmong	7	Bengali	1
Vietnamese	6	Cherokee	1
Armenian	6	Yiddish	1
Arabic	5		

With more than a decade since efforts to canvass the growth of DLI programs in the United States have been undertaken, this study represents an important initiative in understanding these essential educational programs. Effective with the fall 2021-22 school year, data was collected that identifies the number of DLI programs in each of the 50 states. Respondents were asked to identify all programs regardless of type (e.g., one-way immersion programs that serve one linguistic student group or two-way programs that serve students from two different linguistic groups). Each school that housed a program, whether a DLI elementary school or a middle school, were counted separately.

The results, highlighted in the map below, indicate that there are more than 3,600 DLI programs across the United States. 44 states report producing DLI programs, and California, Texas, New York, Utah, and North Carolina account for almost 60% of all programs. Spanish programs account for about 80% of all DLI programs followed by Chinese (8.6%) and French (5.0%). Commenting on the importance of DLI programs to raise student achievement, the Director of Dual Language Studies at ARC, Mr. Gregg Roberts, who oversaw this study, wrote, “The geographical distribution of DLI is encouraging. These programs are a cost effect approach to elevate equity and access with accountability in U.S. language education.”

Figure 1
DLI Programs 2021

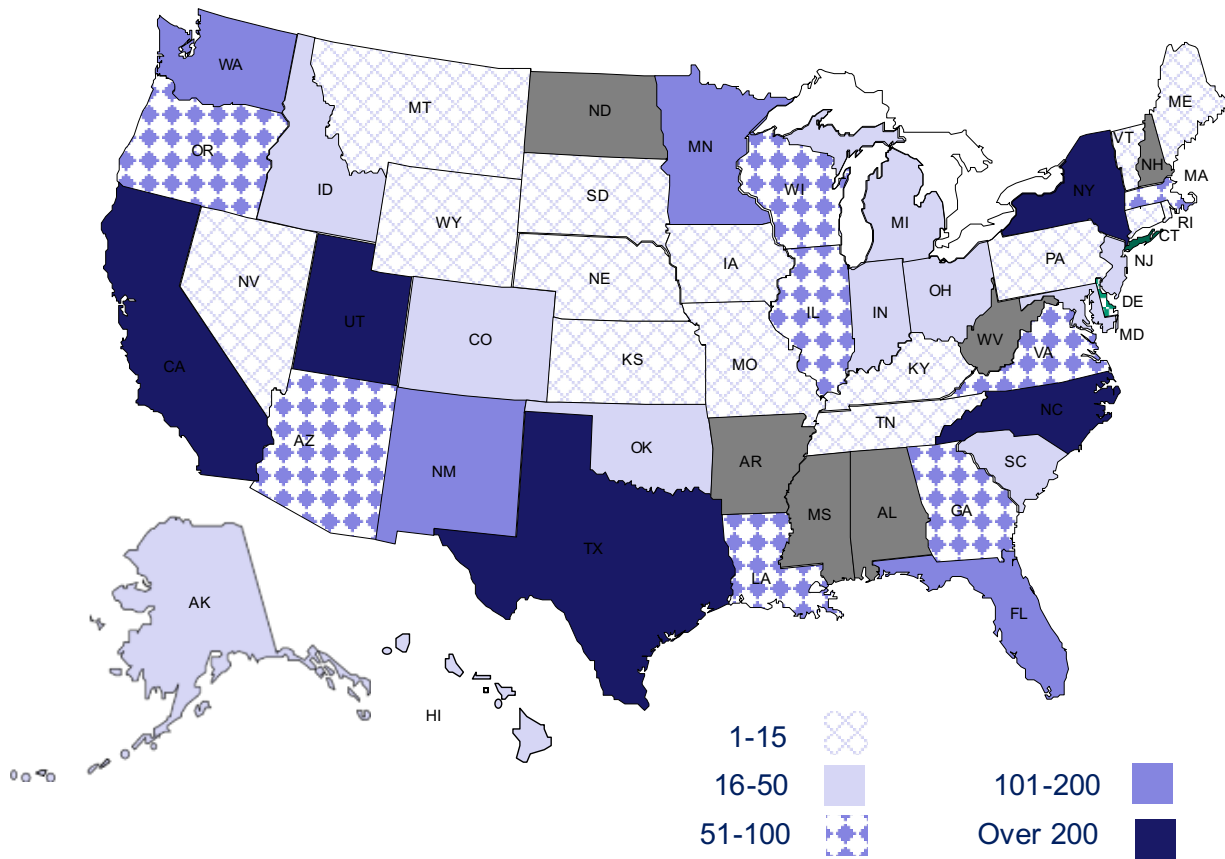


Table 2 below shows the number of DLI programs in each state.

Table 2 Number of DLI Programs in US Public Schools by State	
State	Number of DLI Programs
Alabama	0
Alaska	19
Arizona	61
Arkansas	0
California	660
Colorado	45
Connecticut	12
District of Columbia	13
Delaware	60
Florida	107
Georgia	71
Hawai'i	29
Idaho	20
Illinois	52
Indiana	31
Iowa	12
Kansas	9
Kentucky	11
Louisiana	71
Maine	1
Maryland	41
Massachusetts	61
Michigan	40
Minnesota	107
Mississippi	0
Missouri	8

Table 2 Number of DLI Programs in US Public Schools by State	
State	Number of DLI Programs
Montana	1
Nebraska	12
Nevada	2
New Hampshire	0
New Jersey	15
New Mexico	133
New York	456
North Carolina	229
North Dakota	0
Ohio	15
Oklahoma	19
Oregon	95
Pennsylvania	10
Rhode Island	13
South Carolina	35
South Dakota	2
Tennessee	1
Texas	521
Utah	297
Vermont	1
Virginia	51
Washington	108
West Virginia	0
Wisconsin	82
Wyoming	10

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