

bilingual education ^[1]

Type of Speech:

noun ^[2]

Definition:

Classes taught in a combination of a students' first language and English, geared toward helping student with limited English proficiency ^[3] (LEP) become proficient in English as a second language ^[4] (ESL). Students in bilingual programs receive part of their daily instruction in English and part in a second language. Significant portions of the school day are devoted to ESL instruction, in which each student receives intensive assistance in learning English.

See also English-only movement ^[5].

Additional Information:

The 1974 Supreme Court Decision *Lau v. Nichols* directed school districts throughout the nation to adequately serve LEP students. The Court mandated no single instructional program; school districts may provide bilingual instruction as a means of ensuring equal access to educational opportunities for limited English proficient students. Advocates of bilingual education compete with advocates of English-only programs ^[6].

For further explanation:

Rethinking Schools ^[7] maintains a "Special Collection on Bilingual Education" ^[8]

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