

Benefits of Second Language Learning

Source: Reprinted from Core French Program, Yellowknife Education District No.1, Northwest Territories

Intellectual Potential

- Increases cognitive skills, such as mental flexibility, creativity and divergent thinking
- Strengthens vocabulary, listening skills and communications skills
- Allows for more effective use of verbal and non-verbal clues to grasp the meaning of a situation

Scholastic Achievement/ Effect on First language

- Increases achievement in reading, language and mathematics
- Allows students to perform better in their mother tongue than non-second language students
- Improves literacy; readings skills are shown to be transferable from one language to another
- Allows learners to have a wider command of vocabulary

Career Benefits

- Provides a competitive edge in career choices
- Allows a wider choice for post-secondary study
- Enhances the opportunity to work internationally or with international companies
- Addresses the need for communication skills in languages other than English in a global market place

Personal Benefits

- Allows students to possess superior cross-cultural skills and adapt better to varying cultural contexts
- Increases open-mindedness to other cultures
- Allows students to better understand their own language and culture
- Provides opportunity to interact with speakers of other languages

- Increases opportunity to travel and study abroad
- Allows students to experience literature, films, art, dance and music in their original forms