

SUPPORT RHODE ISLAND'S

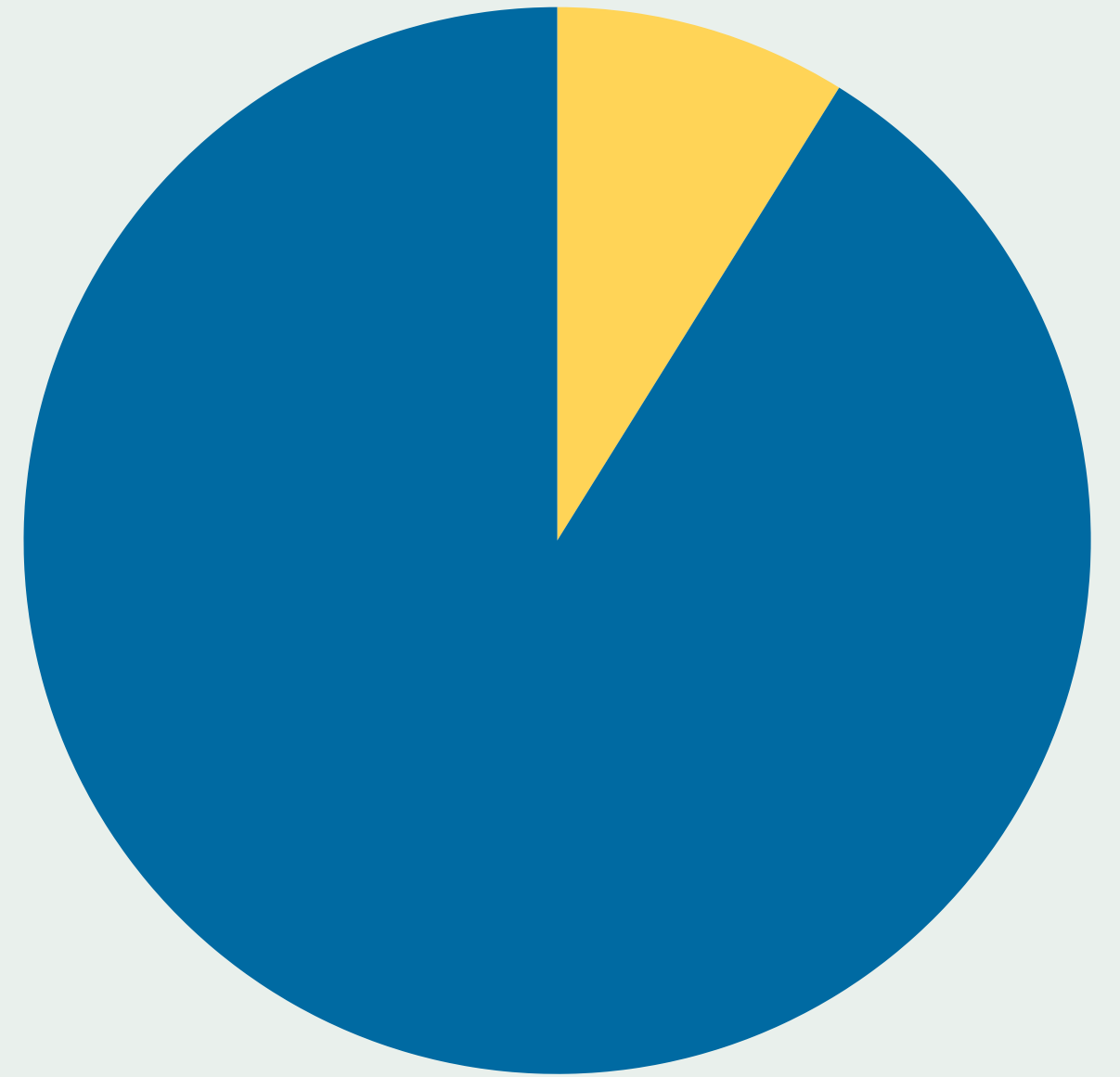
# MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

Because all students deserve access to a high quality education.

## IN RHODE ISLAND...

- Multilingual learners (MLL) make up **14%** of the total student population – 19,674 students.\*
- Multilingual learners (MLL) in RI have increased by **92%** in the past 10 years.\*

Enrolled in Dual Language Programs **8.9%**



**Dual language programs** teach academic content in two languages, aiming for bilingualism, biliteracy, and cross-cultural competence – and have proven long-term benefits. Only **1,743 MLL students** in RI are enrolled in them.\*\*

Not Enrolled **91.1%**

\*RIDE Data on Multilingual Learners

\*\*RI Kids Count 2025 Factbook

## DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO...



1. Improve reading proficiency



2. Increase high school graduation rates



3. Increase the likelihood of attending college

4. Improve economic outcomes for multilingual learners

<https://www.participatelearning.com/blog/positive-impacts-of-dual-language-programs/>

## IMPROVED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- All students benefit from dual language programs, not just multilingual learners.
- 9 out of 10 employers rely on bilingual and multilingual employees.
- People who speak more than one language earn an average of 5-20% more than those who don't.

<https://workforceessentials.com/career-benefits-of-being-bilingual/>



The Economic Progress Institute



COALITION FOR A MULTILINGUAL RI

# Support and Access to Bilingual Education (SABE) Act

Representative Morales (HB 7389) and Senator McKenney (SB 2555)

1. Investing \$650,000 in funding multilingual teacher certifications and creating job opportunities for underemployed Rhode Islanders.
2. Investing \$300,000 in developing dual language programs across the state.



**“This bill isn’t just about scholarships—it’s about investing in people like me....It’s about creating a sustainable teacher pipeline that ensures every student has the support they need to succeed.”**

- Felix Fonseca Garcia, a RIC World Languages Student Teacher

Contact:

Kavya Gopinath, [kgopinath@economicprogressri.org](mailto:kgopinath@economicprogressri.org)  
Alicia Pratt, [info@multilingualri.org](mailto:info@multilingualri.org)