

One School, Five Languages

In New York City public schools, 176 different languages are spoken among the more than 1 million students.

For 160,000 children, English is not their first language. New York's Department of Education makes learning better for these students by providing **dual-language** programs.

Students are taught in two languages, English and another one, like Russian or Chinese. Math, social studies, science and all other regular **courses** are taught in both languages. And they learn about the culture of the other country.

Milady Baez is Deputy Chancellor of English Language Learners and Student Support. She says these dual-language programs will help children succeed in the future.

"The jobs of the future require that our students know more than one language. They are going to be traveling abroad, they are going to be communicating with people from all over the world. This will open doors for them."

David A. Booty Middle School in Brooklyn offers dual language education in four languages: Russian, Mandarin, Spanish and Hebrew.

Shuya Zhang teaches a dual language class. She says the program helps children get ready to work with people in other countries.

"Look at now-a-days, America started economic relationships with China. Lots of factories have been built, companies moved to China. They need people with the skills with both language skills so the kids when they are grown up, they already have this skill."

Middle-schoolers might not have jobs on their minds yet.

Michael Lamon reported this story. Anne Ball produced it and Kathleen Struck was the editor.