

# Engaging emergent bilingual students with educational technology

As the number of emergent bilingual students, also known as English language learners, continues to increase in US public schools, it's more important than ever to ensure they're engaged in classroom learning. One way to do this is through the use of culturally responsive educational technology (EdTech).

## Why focus on engaging emergent bilinguals?

5M

emergent bilinguals in the US<sup>1</sup>

~10%

of all students in US public schools are emergent bilinguals<sup>1</sup>

1 in 4

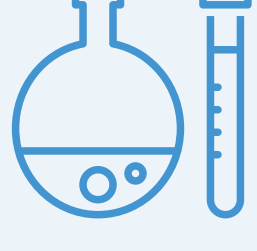
students in the US will be emergent bilingual by 2025<sup>2</sup>

## Why does student engagement matter?

Research shows a strong correlation between engagement and achievement across all subject areas:<sup>3</sup>



Math



Science



Social Studies



General Knowledge



Biographies

### When students are engaged:<sup>4</sup>



Learning



Academic achievement

50%

of all students who dropped out of school said they did so because they were bored, unmotivated, and disengaged, according to one study<sup>4</sup>

## What happens when emergent bilingual students aren't engaged?

Percentage of students who graduated on time during the 2015–16 academic year:<sup>5</sup>



67% emergent bilinguals

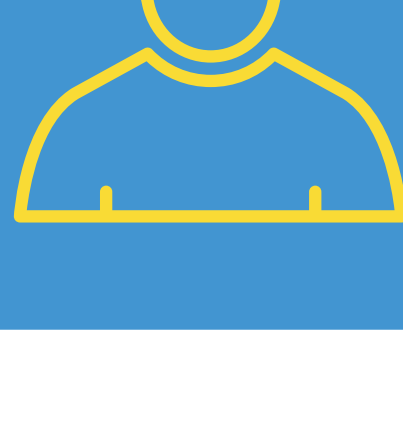
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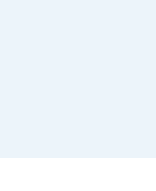
85% non-emergent bilinguals

2x

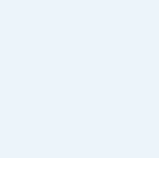
Emergent bilinguals are two times more likely to drop out than native and fluent English speakers<sup>6</sup>



For people without a high school diploma:<sup>6–8</sup>



Earnings



Unemployment rates

## Why is EdTech essential?

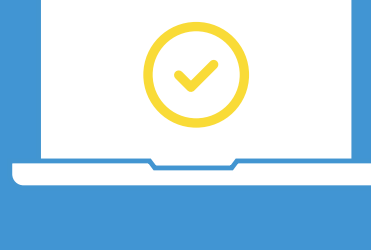
The coronavirus outbreak has made digital learning more essential than ever before

>40M

COVID-19-related school closures have affected >40M public school students<sup>9</sup>

85%

of teachers reported using digital learning resources in instructing emergent bilingual students in 2019<sup>10</sup>



Teachers were more likely to report use of general EdTech tools vs. tools designed for emergent bilinguals<sup>10</sup>

## How can the right EdTech solution help improve emergent bilinguals' engagement?



### Provides a safe, private, nonjudgmental environment

Emergent bilinguals can practice their speaking skills using speech recognition technology, in a nonjudgmental environment where they can make mistakes, gain skills, and increase confidence



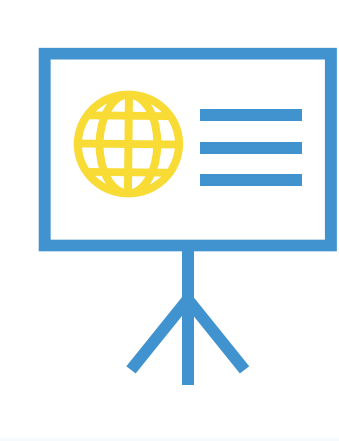
### Offers real-time data

Educators can track students' levels of knowledge and proficiency, enabling educators to personalize learning and make more informed instructional decisions



### Allows for the development of intrinsic motivation

An effective solution allows for choice, provides a visual representation of progress, and enables students to see themselves in the program's stories and characters



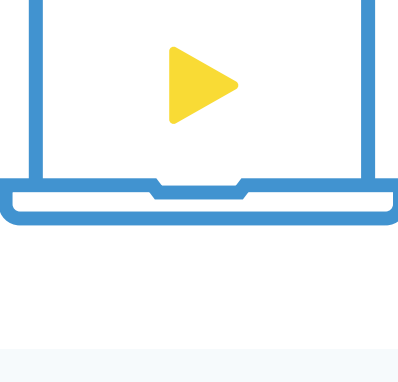
### Incorporates culturally responsive pedagogy

Honoring emergent bilinguals' heritage languages and cultures can help them feel welcome, connected, and engaged



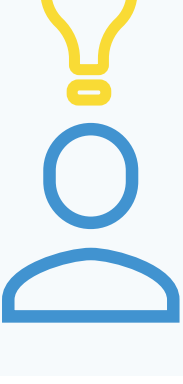
### Enables learning beyond the classroom

EdTech can keep students engaged both inside and outside the classroom, as the program can be used at school or at home



### Includes a variety of media

Video, interactive characters, and gamelike activities can motivate and engage students in new and individualized ways



### Enables independent learning

Independent learning opportunities allow emergent bilinguals to learn at their own pace and appropriate level, making it easier for them to stay engaged



### Provides ongoing assessment

Teachers can access information regarding student strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to target instruction for better student engagement



### Engage emergent bilingual students for better academic outcomes.

Learn more about language learning programs and solutions from Rosetta Stone® at [rosettastone.com/k12](https://rosettastone.com/k12).

## References

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