

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

THE BASICS

- English is the primary goal of bilingual education.
- Bilingual education is all about literacy and knowledge.
- The truth is that we can all stop worrying about the kids not getting conversational English. They're all doing it. We can't stop them. However, conversational English alone is not the answer. Our job, as teachers, is to focus on academic language.
- Kids can't learn what they don't understand. Me neither.
- Knowing your first language really well makes learning the second easier and faster.
- Lots of first language literacy is a great indicator of success in school.
- Poverty is a great roadblock to literacy and knowledge; our job is to level the playing field while the kids are with us in school.
- People around the world feel strongly about their first language. And, why not? It is how we all originally received love from our parents and families. It is okay to love your first language. It is okay for everyone to love the first language.
- Being bilingual is not bad. In fact, it is very good.
- Students must be prepared for a world we can only imagine. They will need to pose problems and solve programs with technology, which stretches beyond our wildest thoughts. Being able to do this in more than one language will be an advantage.
- Above all, students who will succeed socially and economically are those who can thrive in a multilingual world. And, when that day comes, it will still be okay for each of us to have strong feeling about our first language.