



# International

CHARTER SCHOOL

Teaching in the languages of our community: English, español, Português

# Mission

The mission of ICS is to integrate the diverse languages and cultures of the communities we serve by teaching all students in two languages—in Spanish and English or in Portuguese and English—and helping children develop an appreciation of other cultures. Children learn to work collaboratively from their multiple experiences and backgrounds, striving towards high standards of academic achievement. Everyone is part of a community of learners, engaging in inquiry about the world, themselves, and others.

# We are the **INTERNATIONAL** Charter School



Where 342 Students, 523 Parents, 42 Staff, and 9 Board Members Were Born



# ICS Staff and Students

Ethnicity/Race	Staff	Students
Latino	41%	54%

Native language	Staff	Students
Spanish	33%	40%
English	33%	41%
Portuguese/Creole	30%	16%
French/French Creole	2%	<1%
Other	2%	3%

# Student Demographics

- English Language Learners (40%)
- Students with IEPs (12%)
- Socioeconomic Status:
  - Free (44%)
  - Reduced (14%)
  - Full Pay (43%)



# Towns and Cities Represented



- Pawtucket (43%)
- Providence (26%)
- Central Falls (11%)
- East Providence (6%)
- Cranston (5%)
- North Providence (3%)
- Cumberland (2%)
- East Greenwich (1%)
- Lincoln (1%)
- Smithfield (1%)
- Warwick (1%)
- West Warwick (1%)
- Coventry (<1.%)
- Scituate (<1%)

# Dual Language

- Students educated in 2 languages (Spanish or Portuguese and English)
- Integration of students from diverse backgrounds (language, ethnicity, SES, etc.)
- Goals
  - High levels of proficiency in native language
  - High levels of proficiency in second language
  - Grade level academic proficiency
  - Positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors

# Why bilingual education?

- Global citizens
- Language resources
- Cognitive benefits
- Social benefits
- Best model for English language learners



*“The community members of ICS view learning and using different languages as an enrichment.”*

*– Helena Simões-Oliveira, ICS Teacher*

Critical features of Dual Language:

- Additive environment
- Asset orientation

# How?

- Access to grade level content
- Access to high order thinking
- Need substantial language scaffolding and qualified staff

# Next Generation Charter Schools

## Meeting the Needs of Latinos and English Language Learners



SOURCE: iStockphoto

Latinos and English language learners are disproportionately concentrated in charter schools, and this population is only expected to grow in the coming years.

By **Melissa Lazarín** and Feliza Ortiz-Licon | Wednesday, September 1, 2010