

## Immersion Teaching

What is language immersion education?

Due to the historical and current misuse of the term "immersion," we offer the following clarification and definitions to clearly identify the most common types of language immersion programs:

### Definition of Key Terms and Acronyms:

#### **Minority language**

A language other than the one spoken by the majority of people in a given regional or national context, for example, Spanish in the U.S., Basque in Spain, English in Japan, etc.

#### **Majority language**

The language spoken by the majority of people in a given regional or national context, for example, English in the U.S., Spanish in Spain, Japanese in Japan, etc.

**L1** = First language

**L2** = Second language

### Core Characteristics of Immersion Education

- Additive bilingualism with sustained and enriched instruction through the minority language and the majority language is promoted
- Subject area instruction through the minority language occurs for at least 50% of the school day during the elementary school years
- Teachers are fully proficient in the language(s) they use for instruction
- Support for the majority language is strong and present in the community at large
- Clear and sustained separation of languages during instructional time

Source: <http://www.carla.umn.edu/>