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This cross-sectional study examined the oral proficiency of 2nd grade students in English-predominant immersion programs. The study compared oral proficiency between Kindergarten and Grade 2 students, and between Grades 5 and 8 students. Furthermore, parental ratings assigned by trained raters were used to examine the relationship between oral proficiency and teaching tools and practices, immersion, and child language.

Keywords: oral proficiency; immersion education; child language

IN RESPONSE TO INCREASINGLY complex graduate college and career needs, educators can use their academic and professional cultural proficiency to support students' success. In the United States, the past two decades have seen significant growth in the number of immersion programs. As content-based immersion language programs, immersion programs have three main goals: academic achievement, bilingualism and biliteracy, and cultural competency. While the vast majority of immersion programs focus on the success of this programmatic goal, standardized achievement in English (Downs-Reid, 2004; Fornell, 1987; see, 1987, 2004; Turnbull, 2004).