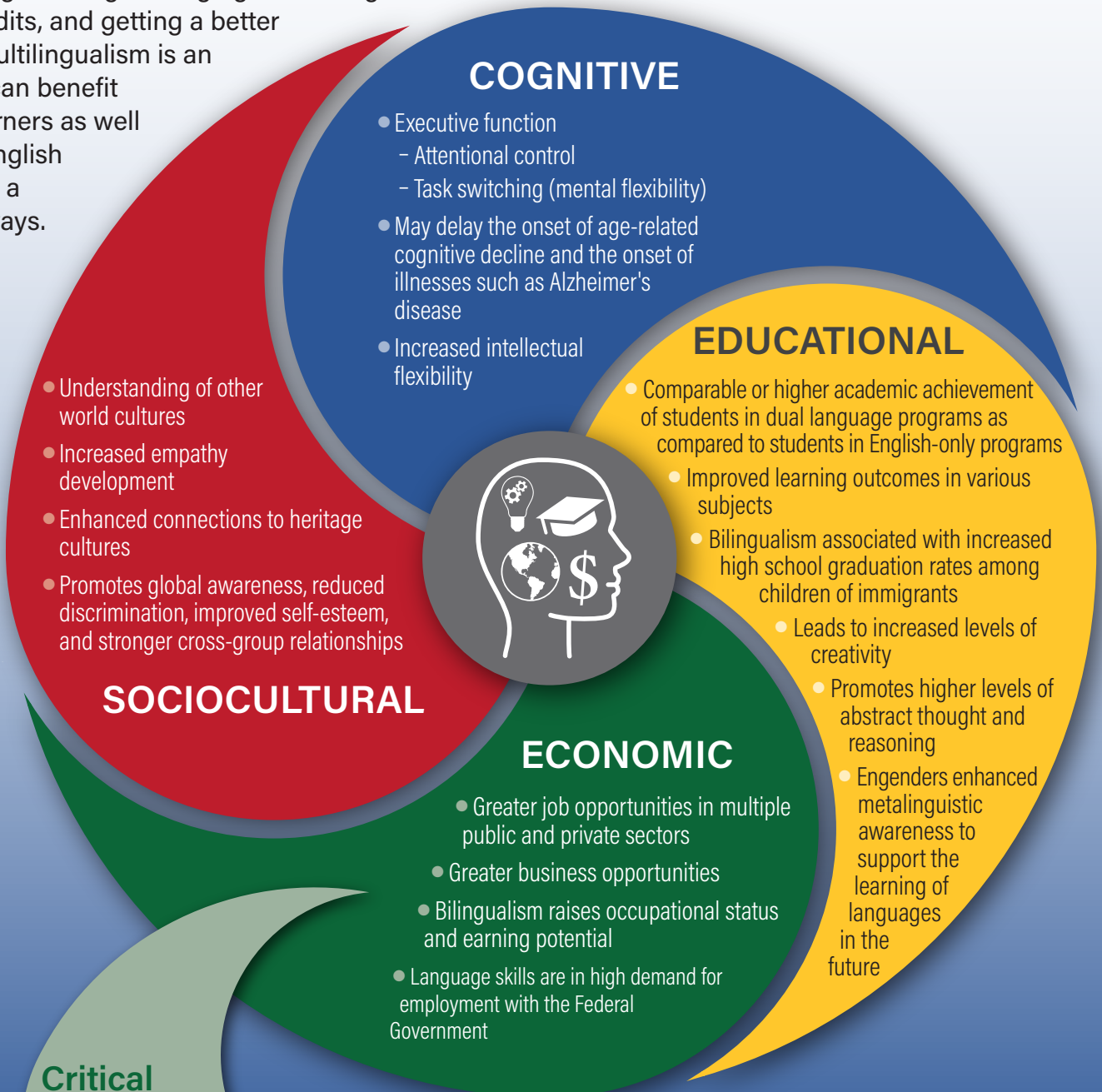


Benefits of Multilingualism

There are multiple benefits to being multilingual, multiliterate, and multicultural in today's global society. Knowing more than one language from birth, acquiring a new language through school, or learning languages later in life can provide tangible advantages in many areas. From delaying cognitive signs of aging, to earning college credits, and getting a better job offer, multilingualism is an asset that can benefit English learners as well as native English speakers in a variety of ways.



COGNITIVE

- Executive function
 - Attentional control
 - Task switching (mental flexibility)
- May delay the onset of age-related cognitive decline and the onset of illnesses such as Alzheimer's disease
- Increased intellectual flexibility

EDUCATIONAL

- Comparable or higher academic achievement of students in dual language programs as compared to students in English-only programs
- Improved learning outcomes in various subjects
- Bilingualism associated with increased high school graduation rates among children of immigrants
 - Leads to increased levels of creativity
 - Promotes higher levels of abstract thought and reasoning
 - Engenders enhanced metalinguistic awareness to support the learning of languages in the future

ECONOMIC

- Greater job opportunities in multiple public and private sectors
- Greater business opportunities
- Bilingualism raises occupational status and earning potential
- Language skills are in high demand for employment with the Federal Government

SOCIOCULTURAL

- Understanding of other world cultures
- Increased empathy development
- Enhanced connections to heritage cultures
- Promotes global awareness, reduced discrimination, improved self-esteem, and stronger cross-group relationships

Critical Languages

Arabic • Hausa • Kurdish
 Mandarin • Pashto • Farsi
 Russian • Somali • Tajik
 Turkish • Urdu

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