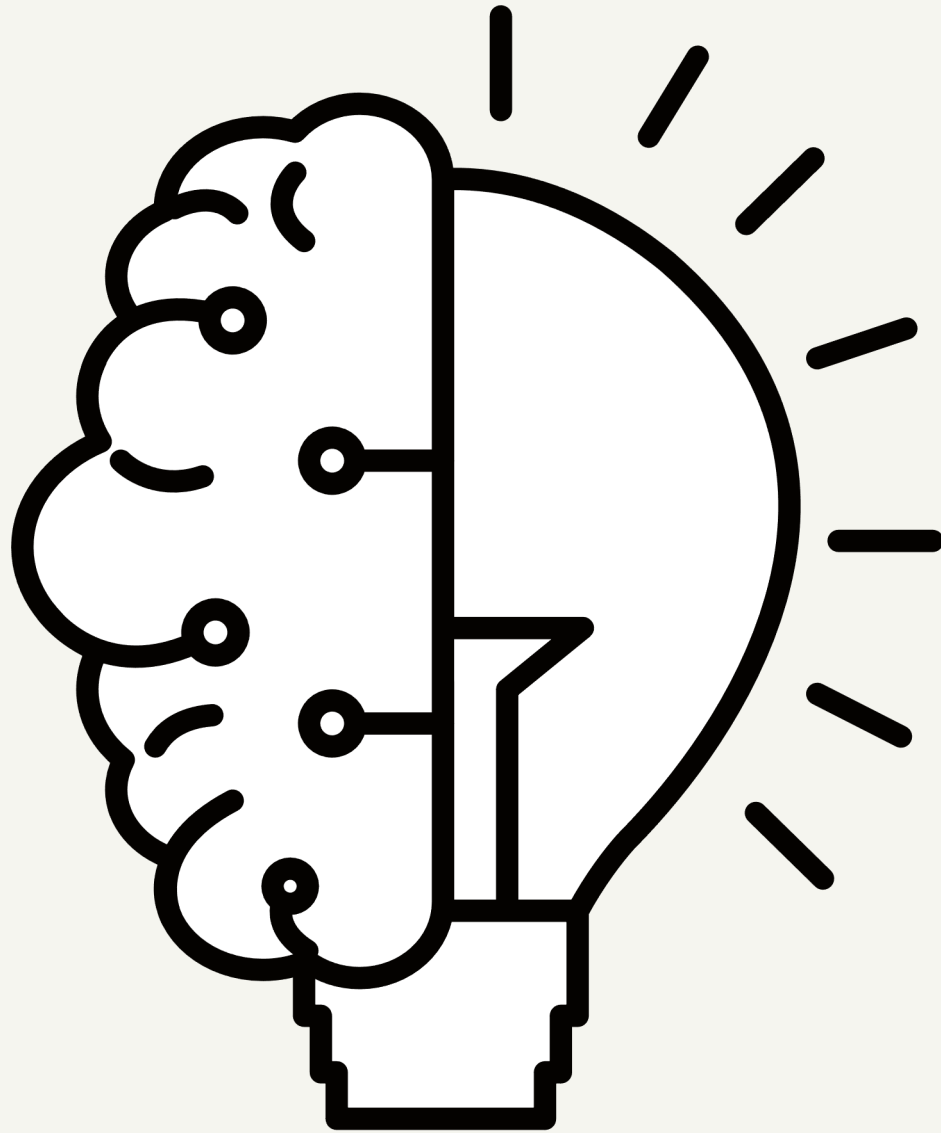




SHOULD STUDENTS BE
REQUIRED TO LEARN A
SECONDARY LANGUAGE FROM
GRADES 1-12?





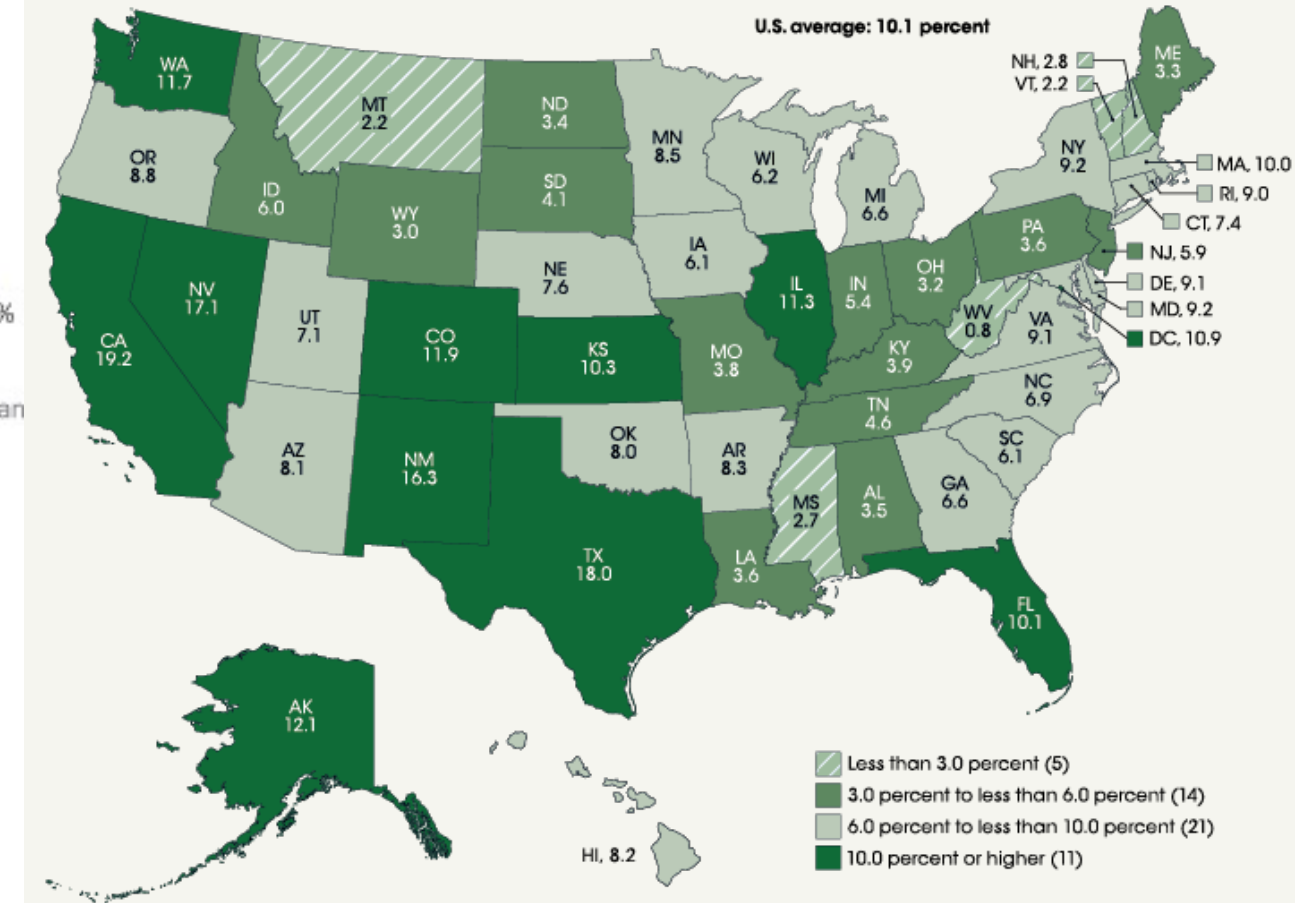
HOW DO YOUNG BRAINS DEVELOP?

- The first 3 years of life is the most intensive period for acquiring speech and language skills
- By 6 months old, most babies recognize the basic sounds of their native language
- The ability to learn a new language, is strongest until the age of 18, after this learning new language becomes harder and harder
- To become completely fluent, however, learning should start before the age of 10
- The brain is like a sponge, the younger and newer the brain, the more information it is able to soak up

LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN AMERICA

- The U.S has no official language but English is most commonly spoke
- Throughout all 50 states and the District of Columbia, 20% of K-12 students are enrolled in foreign language classes
- Immigration also contributes to the increased diversity in languages spoken throughout the country
- In Fall 2017, 5.0 million students classified as ELL (English Language Learners) with an average of 10.1% throughout the states

*You would think that an increase in ELL students would push k-12 schools to offer secondary language courses to English speakers but this is not the case



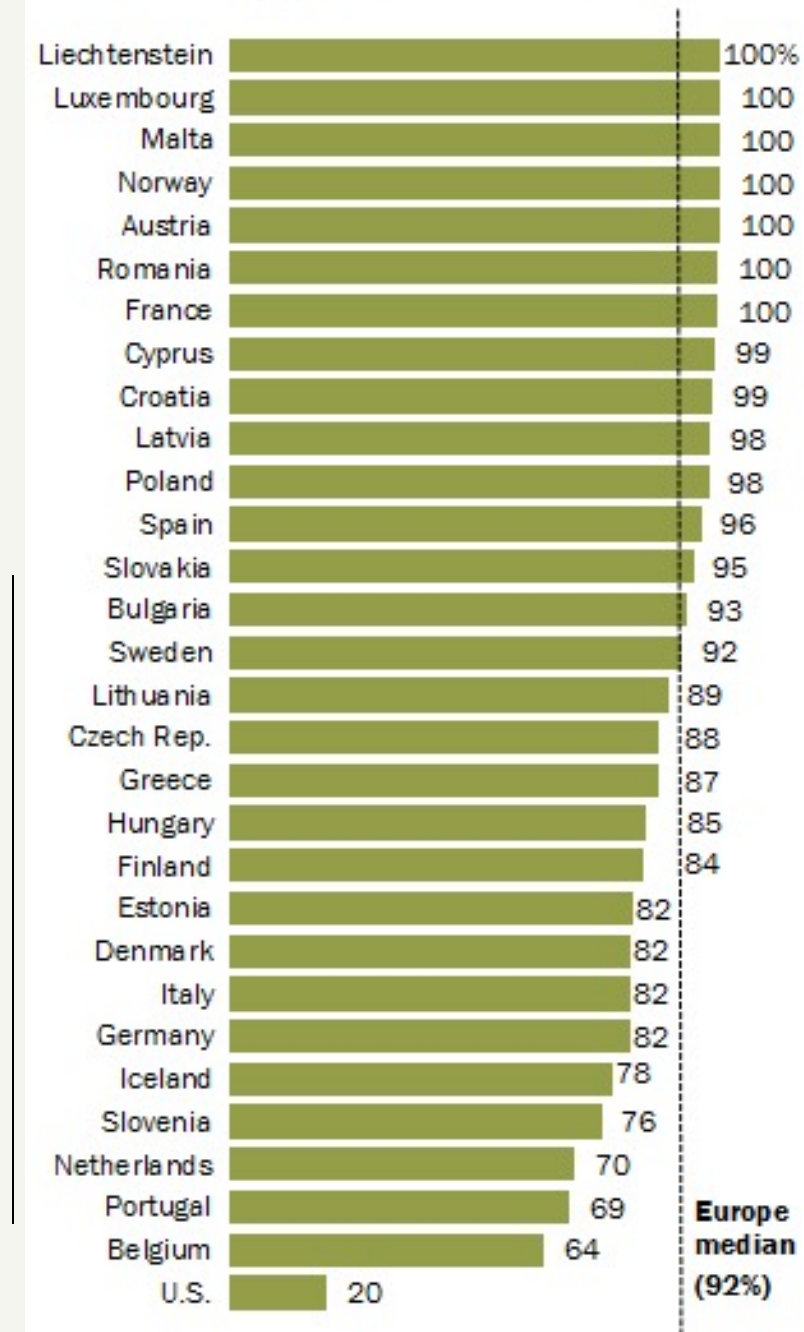
LANGUAGE EDUCATION THROUGH THE WORLD

- Across Europe, students begin studying their **FIRST** foreign language as a required school subject between the ages of 6 and 9.
- Studying a second foreign language for at least one year is required in more than 20 European countries
- Many South American countries require students to learn English along with their native language as early as elementary school

*Famous singer Shakira was born in Columbia and is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and French

Europe drastically outpaces U.S. in foreign language learning

% of primary and secondary students learning a foreign language in Europe (2016) and the U.S. (2017)



Note: Data not available for the UK, Ireland or the Republic of Macedonia. U.S. includes 50 states and the District of Columbia. Source: Europe data from Eurostat, accessed June 20, 2018. U.S. data from "The National K-12 Foreign Language Enrollment Survey Report," American Councils for International Education, June 2017.

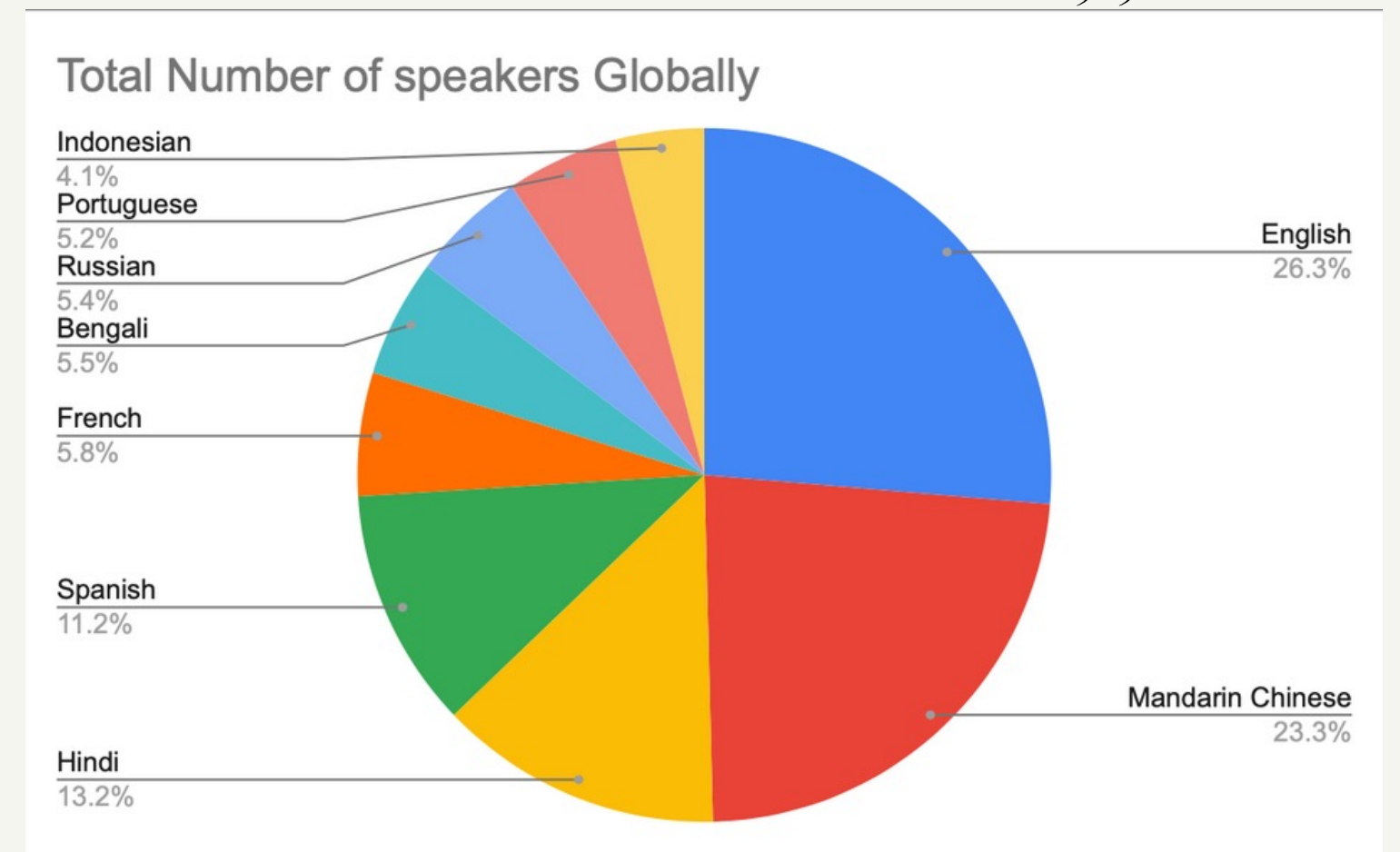
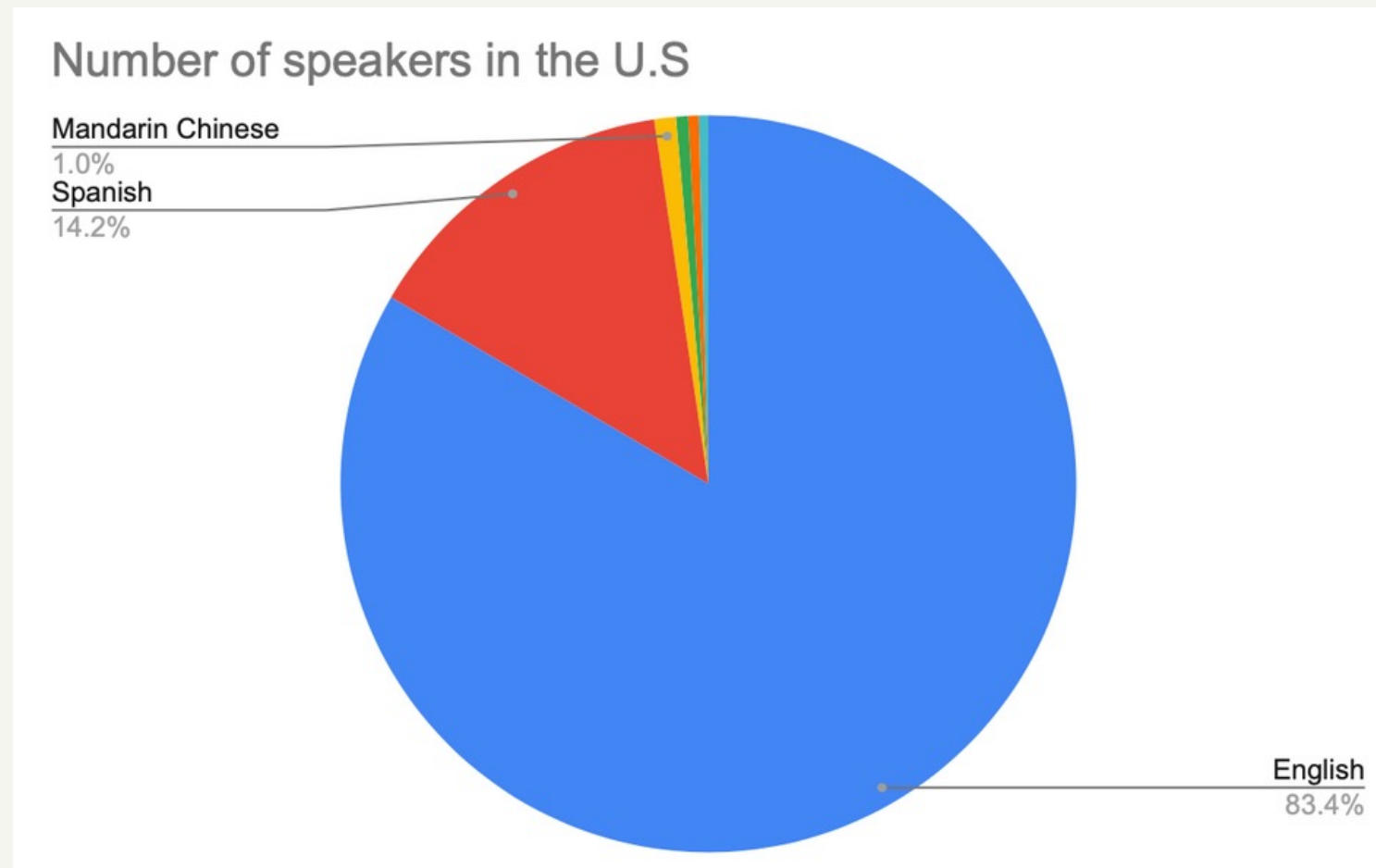
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

*Example: Belgium (64%) reports the lowest overall percentage of students learning another language, 90% of Belgian upper secondary students are studying a foreign language in school. Compare this to the 20% of k-12 students in the U.S

LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN AMERICA VS. GLOBALLY

<u>LANGUAGES</u>	<u># OF SPEAKERS</u>
ENGLISH	254,000,000
SPANISH	43,200,000
MANDARIN CHINESE	2,900,000
TAGALOG	1,610,000
VIETNAMESE	1,400,000
FRENCH	1,281,300

<u>LANGUAGES</u>	<u># SPEAKERS GLOBALLY</u>
ENGLISH	1,120,000,000
MANDARIN CHINESE	637,000,000
HINDI	538,000,000
SPANISH	277,000,000
FRENCH	265,000,000
BENGALI	258,000,000
RUSSIAN	252,000,000
PORTUGUESE	252,000,000
INDONESIAN	199,000,000



● MOST COMMON LANGUAGES IN THE U.S ●

* MOST COMMON LANGUAGES GLOBALLY ●

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

After looking at all the data and statistics do you think students in the U.S should be required to take a secondary language course from grades 1-12?

If no, why?

If yes, why?

If maybe, explain...

If you could make any change to this question would you? Should it be from grades 1-12? Should students get to choose? Should APs, Honors be allowed?

SOURCES

- <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/08/06/most-european-students-are-learning-a-foreign-language-in-school-while-americans-lag/>
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