

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

Bilingual programs are required in New York State only when there are twenty or more limited English proficient (LEP) students in the same building, in the same class, who speak the same language other than English. What school districts describe as dual language programs is not always clearly aligned with the technical definition – enrichment education programs that foster language equity and are organized with the goals of bilingualism and biliteracy for all children, language minority and mainstream students alike. (Torres-Guzman 2002). The rapidly changing demographics in Suffolk County, New York reveal the need to implement research based programs bilingual education programs to insure success for LEP students. **(state change in demographic statistic here)** LEP students comprise a major portion of students who fall well below the required