

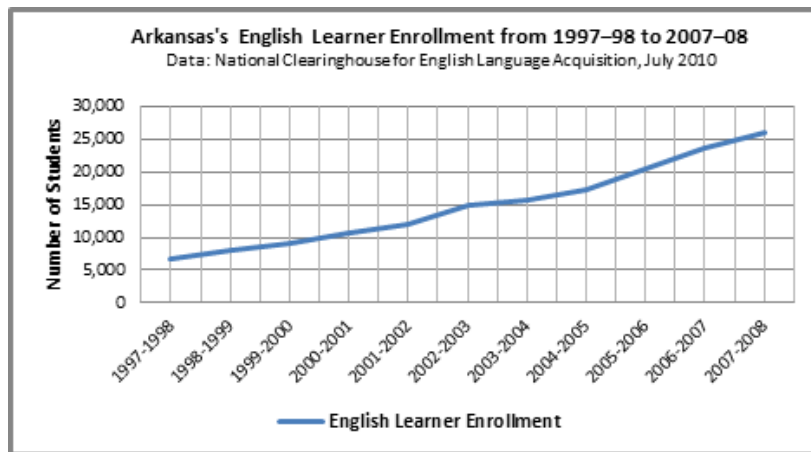
STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

ARKANSAS

Arkansas adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 and began classroom implementation in the 2013–14 school year; the Common Core completely replaces Arkansas’ existing math and English language arts academic standards.¹ Arkansas uses the Arkansas Comprehensive Testing, Assessment and Accountability Program (ACTAAP).²

ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2007–08, Arkansas’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **over 287 percent**, according to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA).³ National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports show that from 2005–06 to 2010–11, **Arkansas’s English learner enrollment increased to** about 31,500 students by 2010–11.⁴



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **6.6 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 480,000.⁵ For

2009–10, Arkansas state assessments reported 29,751 English learner students, **87 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language**. Less than 5 percent each of English learners spoke Marshallese, Vietnamese, Lao, and Hmong.⁶

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

Arkansas school districts provide several **language instruction educational programs (LIEPs)** that are English-only. Those LIEPs include structured English immersion, sheltered English instruction, specially designed academic instruction in English (SDAIE), content-based English as a second language (ESL), and pull-out ESL programs. Other LIEPs consist of dual-language and heritage language programs.⁷

ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Arkansas State Assessments for 2011-12^{16 17}:

- The percentage of fourth-grade English learners that met standards in reading was 79%.
- The percentage of eighth-grade English learners that were proficient in math was 56%.

2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)^{18 19}:

- In Arkansas, 14% of fourth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In Arkansas, 31% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- In Arkansas, 9% of eighth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 5% nationally.
- In Arkansas, 30% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

Arkansas-reported adjusted cohort on-time graduation rates were²⁰:

- In 2010–11, 76% for English learners and 81% for all students.
- In 2011–12, 77% for English learners and 84% for all students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- Arkansas uses the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) to test students' proficiency with the English language.⁸
- Arkansas has been a member of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Career (PARCC) since 2010.⁹

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- Arkansas was approved for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver** in 2012. Its flexibility request stated that:
 - o Arkansas will hold 98 percent of schools will be responsible for subgroups of students by reducing the minimum group size from 40 to 25 and by using a Targeted Achievement Gap Group (TAGG), comprised of economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English learners.¹¹
 - o Arkansas would transition the curriculum of its two-week summer training institute, called the English Learner academy, to focus specifically on the Common Core and the application of teaching strategies and classroom methods that address English learners' needs in mastering Common Core.¹²
 - o Assessment systems used to measure English Language progress against the standards and accountability benchmarks for both English fluency and core content for English learners are in place.¹³
 - o Implementation plans included ongoing training on parental outreach for English learner families on Common Core beginning in the fall of 2011.¹⁴
- Arkansas applied but placed 17th and 21st, respectively, in Rounds 1 and 2 of Race to the Top.¹⁵
 - o In December 2013, Arkansas received a \$51 million grant from the RTT-Early Learning Challenge.

1 Arkansas Dept. of Education (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.arkansased.org/faqs/8/will-the-new-common-core-state-standards-completely-replace-arkansas-existing-academic-standards-for-mathematics-and-english-language-arts>

2 Arkansas Dept. of ED, (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.arkansased.org/faqs/2/what-is-actaap>

3 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Mar. 2014) http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/20/Arkansas_G_0708.pdf

4 National Center for Education Statistics (accessed Mar. 2014) http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d12/tables/dt12_047.asp

5 National Center for Education Statistics (accessed Mar. 2014) http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d12/tables/dt12_037.asp

6 U.S. Dept. of Education, "Consolidated State Performance Report: School Year 2009-10 - Arkansas," Feb. 2011, page 48

7 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Mar. 2014) http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/3/Biennial_Report_0810.pdf, page 44

8 Arkansas Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/learning-services/student-assessment/english-language-development-assessment-elda>

9 PARCC (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.parcconline.org/arkansas>

10 U.S. Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/esea-flexibility/map/ar.html>

11 U.S. Dept. of ED *Arkansas ESEA Flexibility Request Amended* October 25, 2012 http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/approved-requests/ar_requested_amended_10-25-12.doc page 49.

12 Ibid. page 24-25.

13 Ibid. page 20.

14 Ibid. page 25.

15 U.S. Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase2-applications/summary.pdf>

16 ED Data Express (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm/state/AR/>

17 ED Data Express (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/data-element-explorer.cfm/tab/data/deid/3861/>

18 The Nation's Report Card: Mathematics 2011 (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2011/2012458.pdf> As of March 2014, 2013 NAEP data for English learners was not available.

19 The Nation's Report Card: Reading 2011 (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2011/2012457.pdf> As of March 2014, 2013 NAEP data for English learners was not available.

20 ED Data Express (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm/state/AR/>