

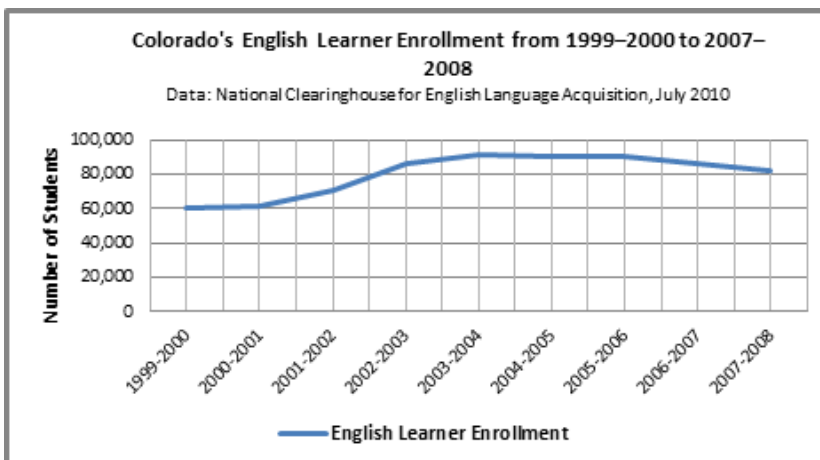
STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

COLORADO

Colorado has incorporated the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and math into its preK-12 Colorado Academic Standards (CAS) for Mathematics and Reading, Writing and Communicating in 2010 and began classroom implementation in the 2013–14 school year. CAS promotes 21st century skills, including personal finance literacy and preschool expectations.¹

ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1999–2000 and 2007–2008, Colorado’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **about 37.2 percent** but in recent years it has been gradually declining, according to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA).² National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports also show enrollment decreasing beginning in 2006–07 but increasing again shortly after to about 98,800 students in 2010–11.³



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **11.9 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 843,000 students.⁴ For 2009–10, Colorado state assessments reported 106,566 English learner students, **86 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language**. Less than 2 percent each of English learners spoke Vietnamese, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.⁵

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

Colorado school districts provide **language instruction educational programs (LIEPs)** that are English-only or that use both English and another language. English-only 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 include two-way immersion, transitional bilingual, dual language, developmental bilingual and heritage language programs.⁶

ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP)/Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) results for 2013¹⁶:

- The percentage of fourth -grade English learners that met proficiency standards in reading was 35%.
- The percentage of eighth-grade English learners that were proficient in math was 11%.

2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)^{17 18}:

- In Colorado, 5% of fourth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In Colorado, 45% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- In Colorado, 3% of eighth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 5% nationally.
- In Colorado, 47% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

Colorado-reported adjusted cohort on-time graduation rates were¹⁹:

- In 2010–11, 53% for English learners and 74% for all students.
- In 2011–12, 53% for English learners and 75% for all students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- Colorado is a member of World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) and uses the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) to screen and identify students who qualify for English Language Development (ELD).⁷
 - English learner standards do not currently address pre-K instruction.⁸
- Colorado has “complementary strands” that “extend the application of the [English Language Development] ELD standards to other important areas of learning, including visual arts, music and performing arts, health and physical education, technology, and multiculturalism.”⁹
- The State’s English Language Proficiency Act (ELPA) allocates financial and technical assistance to school districts with programs for English learners; the program is funded per student to support the Bilingual Education Program, ESL Program, and both programs’ methods of achieving the English language proficiency.¹⁰
- Colorado joined the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) in 2010 and became a governing state in 2012.¹¹

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- Colorado was approved in 2012 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**.¹² Under its waiver plan, CDE indicated that it would re-define its Title III Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) as: AMAO1- Progress in English language proficiency to be defined by the median growth percentile on Colorado’s English Language proficiency assessment; AMAO2- Attaining English language proficiency to be defined by the “Adequate Growth Percentile”; AMAO3- “Academic Growth to Standard” ratings in reading, writing and math for ELLs as well as a graduation rate rating.
 - Under the State’s School and District Performance Framework the academic growth gaps indicator measures growth for the following disaggregated student groups: economically disadvantaged; minority; students with disabilities; English learners; and “students needing to catch up” (below proficiency in the prior year).¹³
- Colorado was a finalist in both Rounds 1 and 2 of **Race to the Top (RTT)**; it was awarded \$17.9 million in Round 3 in 2011. Split evenly between the state and local educational agencies, the grant focuses on “1) building capacity to implement the state’s education reforms; 2) implementing the Colorado Academic Standards; 3) designing the state’s educator evaluation system; and 4) advancing science, technology, education, and math (STEM) education.”¹⁴
- In 2012, Colorado won \$29.9 million through the **RTT—Early Learning Challenge** an additional \$14.9 million in 2013. This four-year project is focusing on developing the State’s Next Generation Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), building an early childhood workforce, measuring child and family development from birth to 5, strengthening kindergarten readiness, and developing guidelines for child development from birth to 8.¹⁵

1 Colorado Dept. of Education (accessed Apr. 2014) http://www.cde.state.co.us/contentareas/ccss_in_the_colorado_standards

2 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Apr. 2014) http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/20/Colorado_G_0708.pdf

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

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

5 U.S. Dept. of Education, “Consolidated State Performance Report: School Year 2009-10 - Colorado,” April 2011, page 48

6 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Apr. 2014) http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/3/Biennial_Report_0810.pdf, page 50

7 Colorado Dept. of ED (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/ela>

8 Colorado Dept. of ED (accessed Apr. 2014) http://www.cde.state.co.us/sites/default/files/documents/coenglangprof/documents/wida_faqs.pdf

9 Ibid

10 Colorado Dept. of ED (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/tiii/elpa.asp>

11 PARCC (accessed Apr. 2014) <https://www.parcconline.org/colorado>

12 U.S. Department of Education (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/esea-flexibility/map/co.html>

13 U.S. Department of Education (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/esea/esea-flexibility/esea-flexibility-approved-requests/co.pdf>

14 Colorado Dept. of ED (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www.cde.state.co.us/rttt>

15 Colorado Office of Early Childhood (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/#!early-learning-challenge-grant/ccaz>

16 CSAP/TCAP Data and Results (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www.cde.state.co.us/assessment/CoAssess-DataAndResults>

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

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

19 ED Data Express (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm/tab/sd/state/CO/>