

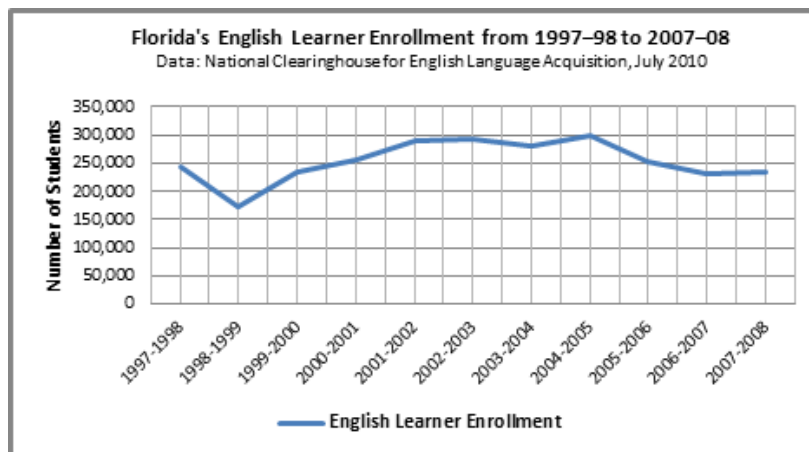
STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS



Florida adopted the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and math in 2010; Florida’s academic standards, the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, also set expectations for math, career and adult education, and voluntary prekindergarten, among other subject areas. For its mathematics standards, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) made changes in January 2014 that will be fully implemented in the 2014-15 school year.¹ FDOE has completed plans to implement teacher professional development, curriculum guides and instructional materials, and teacher-evaluation systems.²

ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2007–08, Florida’s reported student enrollment of English learner students decreased by **3.6 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, **Florida’s rate of English learner enrollment remained steady**—at around 230,000 students.⁴



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **8.7 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 2.6 million.⁵ For 2009–10, Florida state assessments reported 260,202 English learner students, **72 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language**. About 12 percent spoke Haitian Creole; around 1 percent each spoke Portuguese, Vietnamese and French.⁶

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

As reported in the NCELA Biennial Report, Florida school districts did not provide **language instruction educational programs (LIEPs)**.⁷ However, it is assumed Florida did not report this information to NCELA because by federal and state law, Florida must provide services to English learners. Florida programs use federal Title III funding to provide teacher professional development and support evidence-based academic programs for English learners.⁸

ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Florida State Assessments for 2011–12^{14 15}:

- The percentage of fourth-grade English learners that met standards in reading was 26%.
- The percentage of eighth-grade English learners that met standards in math was 24%.

2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)^{16 17}:

- In Florida, 7% of fourth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In Florida, 38% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- In Florida, 5% of eighth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 5% nationally.
- In Florida, 29% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

Florida-reported adjusted cohort on-time graduation rates were¹⁸:

- In 2010–11, 53% for English learners and 71% for all students.
- In 2011–12, 57% for English learners and 75% for all students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- Florida uses the Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA), developed by Educational Testing Service (ETS), to measure the progress of English language learners in listening, speaking, reading and writing. CELLA has four test levels: A (grades K-2), B (grades 3-5), C (grades 6-8), and D (grades 9-12). Kindergarten students are administered the exam in one-on-one sessions with a teacher. Students in grades 1-12 take the speaking section one-on-one with a teacher; the rest of the exam is taken in a group setting.⁹
- Florida pulled out of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in 2014; in January, Florida was considering testing proposals from Pearson, ACT, CTB/McGraw-Hill, McCann Associates, and the American Institutes for Research.¹⁰

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- Florida was conditionally approved in 2012 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**. The conditional status was lifted on May 14, 2013. Under its waiver plan, FDOE indicated that English learners who have been in the country for more than one year will now be included in all components of the school grading system.
 - FDOE created a “lowest-performing 25%” subgroup under the waiver plan. Schools must show that 50% of students in the lowest-performing group (lowest 25%) have made learning gains.
- Florida was a winner in Round 1 of **Race to the Top**; it placed fourth and was awarded \$700 million in Round 2.¹³
 - Its Year 2 Accomplishments include increased enrollment in STEM accelerated coursework, continued revision of the Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE), and the execution of the UTeach project (in which teacher candidates can receive a dual major in math or science and education).

1 Florida Dept. of Education (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.fldoe.org/bii/curriculum/sss/>

2 Education First and Editorial Projects in Education (accessed Mar. 2014) http://www.edweek.org/media/movingforward_ef_epe_020413.pdf

3 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Mar. 2014) http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/20/Florida_G_0708.pdf

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

5 NCES (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 - Florida,” 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 62

8 Florida Dept. of ED (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www.fldoe.org/aala/>

9 Florida Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.fldoe.org/aala/cella.asp>

10 Tampa Bay Times (accessed Apr. 2014) <http://www.tampabay.com/blogs/gradebook/is-florida-still-considering-the-parcc-exams-gaetz-says-no/2160246>

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

12 U.S. Department of Education (accessed Apr. 2014) Letter to Commissioner Bennett dated May 14, 2013. <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/secretary-letters/fl2.html>

13 Florida Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) http://www.fldoe.org/arra/pdf/Fla_RTTT_Final_1_31.pdf

14 ED Data Express (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm?state=FL>

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

16 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.

17 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.

18 ED Data Express (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm?state=FL>