

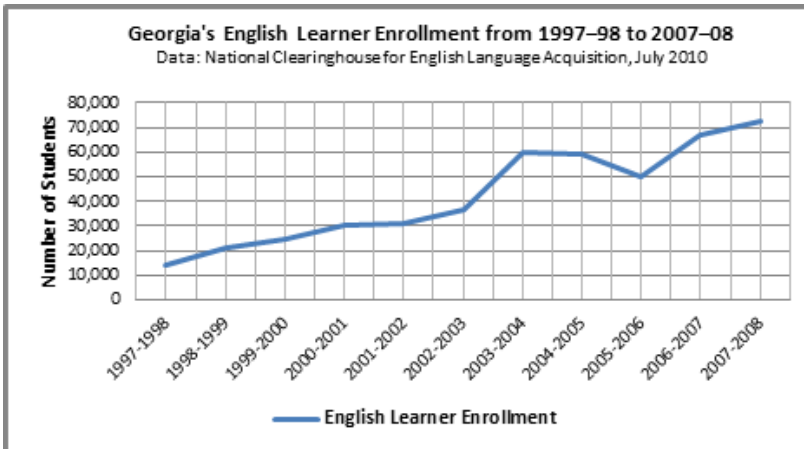
STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS



Georgia adopted the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) in 2010 and began classroom implementation in the 2012–13 school year. CCGPS sets academic standards for English language arts and math from kindergarten to 12th grade, and for science, history/social studies and technical subjects from 6th to 12th grade.¹ The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has completed plans to implement teacher professional development, curriculum guides and instructional materials, and teacher-evaluation systems.² The projected launch for the first administration of the Common Assessment is the 2014–15 school year.³

ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2007–08, Georgia’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **over 406 percent**, according to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA).⁴ However, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports show that from 2005–06 to 2010–11, **Georgia’s rate of English learner enrollment leveled out**, fluctuating between 80,000 and 90,000 students each year.⁵



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **4.9 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 1.7 million.⁶ For 2009–10, Georgia state assessments reported 85,410 English learner students, **78 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language**. Less than 5 percent each of English learner spoke Vietnamese, Korean, Chinese and other languages.⁷

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

Georgia school districts provide several **language instruction educational programs (LIEPs)** that are English-only or that use both English and another language. English-only LIEPs are comprised of 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.⁸ Geor-

ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT) State Assessments for 2012–13¹⁵:

- The percentage of fourth-grade English learners that met standards in reading was 62%.
- The percentage of eighth-grade English learners that met standards in math was 58%.

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

- In Georgia, 5% of fourth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In Georgia, 34% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- In Georgia, 6% of eighth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 5% nationally.
- In Georgia, 28% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

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

- In 2010–11, 32% for English learners and 67% for all students.
- In 2011–12, 44% for English learners and 70% for all students.

Georgia's state-funded **English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program** focuses on incorporating English development standards into instruction for both ESOL and general courses. Georgia uses the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Proficiency Standards for this program.⁹

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- Georgia state laws authorize the ESOL program (Statute O.C.G.A. § 20-2-156).¹⁰
 - ESOL class sizes must have at least seven students in order to receive funding. Maximum ESOL class sizes vary depending on the grade level and whether or not the course is taught with a paraprofessional. For K-12, the maximum class size is 11 to 13; for grades 4-8, the maximum class size is 14 to 15; and for grades 9-12, the maximum class size is 18 to 20.
 - LEAs must monitor students for two years after they exit English learner services. The monitoring process includes review of report cards, state assessment results, classroom performance and teacher observations.
- In July 2013, Georgia withdrew from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Career (PARCC), issues of cost and technology barriers.¹¹

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- Georgia was conditionally approved in 2012 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**. Under its waiver plan, GaDOE indicated that it would provide support to districts with Focus Schools, including support from specialists in the areas of English learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students.¹²
 - Georgia's College- and Career-Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) for elementary schools and middle schools includes indicators to measure the performance of English learners on an annual basis and the number of students with disabilities served in general classrooms greater than 80 percent of the school day.
- In 2010, Georgia was awarded **\$400 million from the Race to the Top (RTT) competition** in order to continue innovations and reforms in education. Half of the awarded funds go to the state level and half go to 26 LEAs via the Title I formula. These districts enroll 40 percent of Georgia's public school students and 48 percent of its Hispanic students. Georgia's RTT performance report shows that the achievement gap between English learners and non-English learners in both reading and math widened between 2010–11 and 2011–12. However, this could be attributed to Georgia adopting new and stricter standards and assessment methods.¹³
 - In December 2013, Georgia received a **\$51.7 million grant from RTT-Early Learning Challenge**.¹⁴

1 Georgia Dept. of Education (accessed Feb. 2014) <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/CCGPS.aspx>

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

3 Georgia Dept. of ED, (accessed Feb. 2014) <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Documents/CCGPS%20Timeline.pdf>

4 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Feb. 2014) http://www.ncele.us/files/uploads/20/Georgia_G_0708.pdf

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

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

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

8 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Feb. 2014) http://www.ncele.us/files/uploads/3/Biennial_Report_0810.pdf

9 Georgia Dept. of ED (accessed Feb. 2014) [https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/English-to-Speakers-of-Other-Languages-\(ESOL\)-and-Title-III.aspx](https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/English-to-Speakers-of-Other-Languages-(ESOL)-and-Title-III.aspx)

10 Georgia Dept. of ED (accessed Feb. 2014) <http://www.screven.k12.ga.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=llSna12ileY%3D&tabid=12332&mid=27220>

11 NPR (accessed Feb. 2014) <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=205548324>

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

13 Georgia Dept. of ED (accessed Feb. 2014) <https://www.gadoe.org/Race-to-the-Top>

14 U.S. Dept of Ed. (accessed Feb. 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge/index.html>

15 K-12 Public Schools Report Card - Georgia Tests (accessed Mar. 2014) <https://usg.gosa.ga.gov/analytics/saw.dll?Dashboard>

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: Georgia (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm?state=GA>