

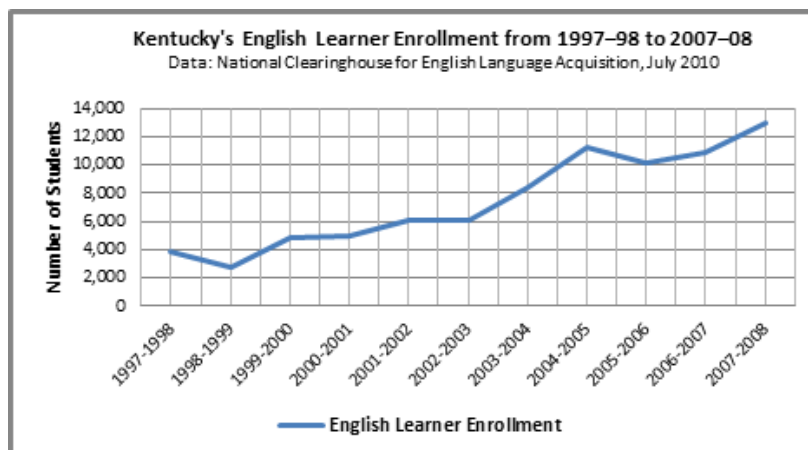
STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

KENTUCKY

Kentucky adopted the Kentucky Core Academic Standards (KCAS) in 2010 and began classroom implementation in the 2011–12 school year. KCAS uses standards adopted before the Common Core for all subject areas aside from English language arts and mathematics.¹ The Kentucky Department of Education has completed plans to implement teacher professional development, curriculum guides and instructional materials, and teacher-evaluation systems aligned with the standards.²

ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2007–08, Kentucky’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **over 233 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, **Kentucky’s English learner enrollment** sharply rose to over 16,000 students.⁴



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **2.4 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 673,000.⁵ For 2009–10, Kentucky state assessments reported 15,895 English learner students, **56 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language**. Less than 3 percent each of English learners spoke Japanese, Arabic and Chinese; 12.5 percent spoke other languages.⁶

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

Kentucky school districts have provided English-only language educational programs (LIEPS), which are comprised of structured English immersion, sheltered English instruction, content-based English as a second language (ESL), and pull-out ESL programs.⁷ Kentucky uses the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Proficiency Standards.⁸

ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

*Kentucky State Assessments*¹⁶:

- In 2013, the percentage of elementary school-level English learners that met proficiency standards in reading was 19.4%. The percentage for all students was 47.8%.
- The percentage of middle school-level English learners that met standards in math was 12.5%. The percentage for all students was 51.1%.

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

- For Kentucky, there was no reported percentage of fourth-grade English learners performing at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In Kentucky, 36% of fourth grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- In Kentucky, 2% of eighth grade English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 5% nationally.
- In Kentucky, 31% of eighth grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

Kentucky-reported adjusted cohort on-time graduation rates were not reported for 2010-12.¹⁹

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- Kentucky administers a Home Language Survey to screen for potential English learner students before administering the WIDA W-APT exam to place those students into a program. Those students are assessed with WIDA's ACCESS for ELLs exam annually. Students who achieve an exit score do not have to take English proficiency assessment exams, but are monitored for two years.⁹
- In January 2014, Kentucky withdrew from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Career (PARCC), which develops standardized tests for the Common Core State Standards, citing issues of cost. Kentucky also uses some ACT exams in middle and high school.¹⁰

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- Kentucky was approved in 2012 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**.¹¹ Under its waiver plan, Kentucky indicated that students with disabilities and English Language Learners (ELLs) are included in the performance data used to identify schools and implement interventions and are also included in both the proficiency and gap reduction components of the accountability system index.¹²
 - Kentucky is now using a Student Gap Group—an aggregate count of student groups as a “gap scores” component within the Next Generation Learners system. Student groups combined include ethnicity/race (African-American, Hispanic, Native American), Special Education, Poverty (free/reduced lunch) and Limited English Proficiency.¹³
- In December 2013, Kentucky received a **\$44.3 million grant from RTT-Early Learning Challenge**.¹⁴ That same month, another cohort of Kentucky school districts won a \$30 million Race to the Top-Local Educational Agencies grant to address education in rural communities.¹⁵

1 Kentucky Dept. of Education (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/docs/pages/kentucky-core-academic-standards--new.aspx>

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.ncele.us/files/uploads/20/Kentucky_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_047.asp

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

7 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Mar. 2014) http://www.ncele.us/files/uploads/3/Biennial_Report_0810.pdf, page 86

8 WIDA (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.wida.us/membership/states/Kentucky.aspx>

9 Kentucky Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://education.ky.gov/special/EL/Documents/TOOLKIT%20Implementation%20of%20District%20Programs%20Reference%20Document.pdf>

10 Education Week (accessed Mar. 2014) http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2014/01/kentucky_withdraws_from_parcc_.html

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

12 U.S. Department of Education Kentucky ESEA Flexibility Request: Revised Approved Submission With Amendments to Principles 1 and 2 September 28, 2012 (accessed March 2014) http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/approved-requests/ky_request_amend_092812.doc, page 72

13 Ibid. pages 38 and 54

14 U.S. Department of Education (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge/index.html>

15 WFPL (accessed Mar. 2014) http://m.wfpl.org/?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F#mobile/7939

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

16 Kentucky School Report Card (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://applications.education.ky.gov/src/AssessmentByState.aspx>

17 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.

18 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.

19 Ed Data Express: Kentucky (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm?state=KY>