

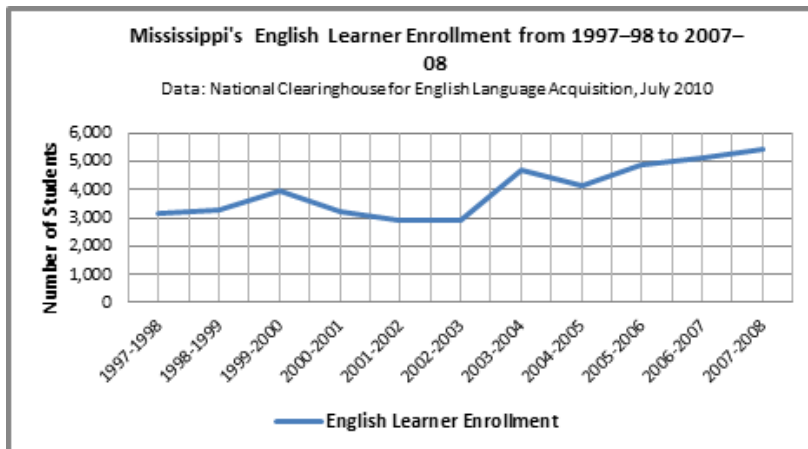
STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 and began classroom implementation in the 2013–14 school year. In 2014, Mississippi released updated standards for math and English language arts as a part of its Mississippi College- and Career-Ready Standards.¹

ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2007–08, Mississippi’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **over 72 percent**, according to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA). National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports show that from 2002–03 to 2010–11, Mississippi’s number of English learner enrollment has been oscillating but current trends show a gradual increase.³



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **1.1 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 490,500. For 2009–10, Mississippi state assessments reported 6,084 English learner students, **82 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language**. Less than 6 percent each of English learners spoke Vietnamese, Arabic, Chinese and Gujarati.⁴

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

Mississippi school districts provide several **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.⁵ Mississippi uses the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Proficiency Standards.⁶

ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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

- The percentage of fourth-grade English learners that met standards in reading was 40%.
- The percentage of eighth-grade English learners that met standards in math was 55%.

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

- Mississippi did not report fourth-grade math proficiency for English learners.
- In Mississippi, 22% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- Mississippi did not report eighth-grade math proficiency for English learners.
- In Mississippi, 19% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

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

- In 2010–11, 54% for English learners and 75% for all students.
- In 2011–12, 54% for English learners and 75% for all students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- Mississippi’s English learner program has four steps. First, students are administered a Home Language Survey (HLS). After, they undergo an Initial Assessment of Language Proficiency. After Parental Notification, students are placed into programs.⁷
- School guidance counselors are trained to transfer credits from foreign school transcripts. English learners can also take placement exams to receive credit based on their prior education in foreign schools.⁸
- Mississippi is a governing state of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Career (PARCC), which develops standardized tests for the Common Core State Standards.⁹

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- Mississippi was approved in 2012 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**.¹⁰ Under its waiver plan, Mississippi indicated that it was developing and disseminating a supplement to its Response to Intervention (RtI) manual that focuses on literacy interventions for low-achieving students, students with disabilities, and English Learners. The waiver plan also mentioned the development of a scaffolding document for the Common Core that can be used for struggling learners, students with disabilities, and English learners.¹¹
 - Mississippi reduced the “N size” it uses for adequate yearly progress calculations from 40 to 30 but noted that 95% of schools would not be accountable for English learners, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American subgroups.¹²
 - Mississippi created a new low-performing subgroup (QDI-Low) for accountability purposes. The QDI-Low is a measure of achievement for the lowest-performing students in the school regardless of their demographic classifications.¹³
- Mississippi did not submit an application to **Race to the Top (RTT) Round 1** and placed 34th in Round 2.¹⁴
- In 2013, Clarksdale Municipal School District was one of five winners of the Race to the Top-District Grant Competition.¹⁵

1 Mississippi Dept. of Education (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/curriculum-and-instruction/curriculum-and-instruction-other-links/common-core-state-standards>

2 Mississippi Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/student-assessment/ell-guidelines-january-2011-final.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

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

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

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

6 WIDA (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://wida.us/membership/states/Mississippi.aspx>

7 Mississippi Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/student-assessment/ell-guidelines-january-2011-final.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

8 Ibid

9 PARCC (accessed Mar. 2014) <https://www.parcconline.org/mississippi>

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

11 U.S. Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Request Revised March 23, 2013 (accessed March 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/approved-requests/msrequestp3.pdf> page 20

12 Ibid. page 54

13 U.S. Department of Education Mississippi ESEA Flexibility Request Attachments (accessed March 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/approved-requests/msattachmentp3.pdf> page 296 (page 6 of Attachment 8a)

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

15 U.S. Department of Education (accessed Mar. 2014) <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-names-five-winners-120-million-race-to-top-district-grant-c>

16 Ed Data Express: Mississippi (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm?state=MS>

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