

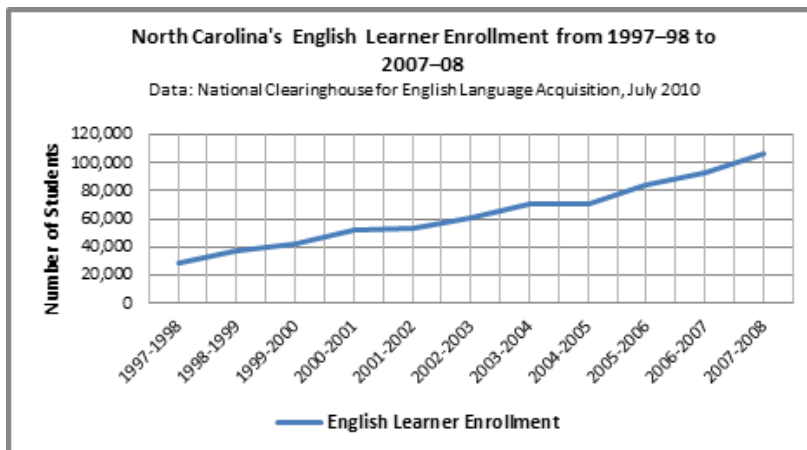
## STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

## NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina adopted the Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards (**Essential Standards**) in 2010 and began classroom implementation in the 2012–13 school year.<sup>1</sup> The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has completed plans to implement teacher professional development, curriculum guides and instructional materials, and teacher-evaluation systems aligned with the new standards.<sup>2</sup>

### ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2007–08, North Carolina’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **over 270 percent**, according to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA).<sup>3</sup> However, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports show that from 2005–06 to 2010–11, **North Carolina’s number of English learner enrollment declined from over 126,700 students in 2007-08** to about 102,000 students in 2010-11.<sup>4</sup>



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **7.1 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 1.5 million. For 2009–10, North Carolina state assessments reported 119,973 English learners students, **83 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language**. Less than 2 percent each of English learners spoke Hmong, Arabic, Vietnamese and Chinese.<sup>5</sup>

### ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

North Carolina 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 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 transitional bilingual, dual-language, developmental bilingual and heritage language programs.<sup>6</sup> North Carolina uses the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language

### ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

#### North Carolina State Assessments for 2011–12<sup>16 17</sup>:

- The percentage of fourth-grade English learners that met standards in reading was 38%.
- The percentage of eighth-grade English learners that met standards in math was 68%.

#### 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)<sup>18 19</sup>:

- In North Carolina, 7% of fourth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In North Carolina, 36% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- In North Carolina, 7% of eighth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 5% nationally.
- In North Carolina, 38% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

#### North Carolina-reported adjusted cohort on-time graduation rates were<sup>20</sup>:

- In 2010–11, 48% for English learners and 78% for all students.
- In 2011–12, 50% for English learners and 80% for all students.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- All students who are identified as English learners must participate in annual testing. However, students who score below Level 4.0 (out of 6 subtest levels) on the WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test (W-APT) and are in their first year of U.S. schools are exempted from being assessed; those students are also not included in North Carolina's annual measurable objectives (AMOs).<sup>8</sup>
- North Carolina also identifies guidelines for numerous testing accommodations for English learners, including:<sup>9</sup>
  - o Test administration/reading test aloud in English.
  - o A computer, controlled by the student, reads test aloud.
  - o Multiple testing sessions.
  - o Word-to-Word Bilingual Dictionary/Electronic Translator
- North Carolina is a member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.<sup>10</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- North Carolina was approved in 2012 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**.<sup>11</sup> Under its waiver plan, North Carolina indicated that its accountability data will emphasize the performance of all students at the aggregate level and the following subgroups: white, black, Asian, native American, Hispanic, two or more races, students with disabilities, English learners, and economically disadvantaged students, as well as academically or intelligently gifted students. Each subgroup has separate targets, with the same goal of reducing by 1/2 the percent of non-proficient students by SY2016-2017.<sup>12</sup>
  - o North Carolina indicated that it is collaborating with researchers Dr. Wayne Thomas and Dr. Virginia Collier to conduct a multi-year study of the performance of English Learners in North Carolina schools.
    - Initial findings from cross-sectional descriptive analysis found that two-way dual language education may be an effective way to improve the Reading and Math scores of all North Carolina students.
  - o North Carolina has disseminated the work of Edynn Sato, Language for Achievement – A Framework for Academic English Language to identify linkage between the Common Core and ELP standards.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2010, North Carolina was awarded **\$400 million from the Race to the Top (RTT) competition** in order to continue innovations and reforms in education.
  - o In March 2014, North Carolina announced 450 \$10,000 teacher bonuses funded by RTT grants. Teachers will receive this bonus after sharing their best practices and effective instruction methods.<sup>15</sup>

1 North Carolina Dept. of Education (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/common-core/>

2 Education First and Editorial Projects in Education (accessed Mar. 2014) [http://www.edweek.org/media/movingforward\\_ef\\_epe\\_020413.pdf](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/North\\_Carolina\\_G\\_0708.pdf](http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/20/North_Carolina_G_0708.pdf)

4 National Center for Education Statistics (accessed Mar. 2014) [http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d12/tables/dt12\\_047.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d12/tables/dt12_047.asp)

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

6 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed Mar. 2014) [http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/3/Biennial\\_Report\\_0810.pdf](http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/3/Biennial_Report_0810.pdf)

7 WIDA (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://wida.us/membership/states/NC/>

8 North Carolina Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/accountability/policyoperations/lep/testinglep1314.pdf>

9 Ibid.

10 Smarter Balanced (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/about/member-states/>

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

12 U.S. Department of Education North Carolina ESEA Flexibility Request (accessed March 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/approved-requests/nc.pdf> page 48.

13 Ibid. page 25-26

14 North Carolina Dept. of ED (accessed Mar. 2014) <https://www.mcnc.org/news/north-carolina-wins-race-to-the-top-money.html>

15 North Carolina Policy Watch (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2014/03/24/mccrory-announces-plan-to-give-450-teachers-10000-bonuses-with-race-to-the-top-funds/>

16 ED Data Express: North Carolina (accessed Mar. 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm?state=NC>

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