

STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

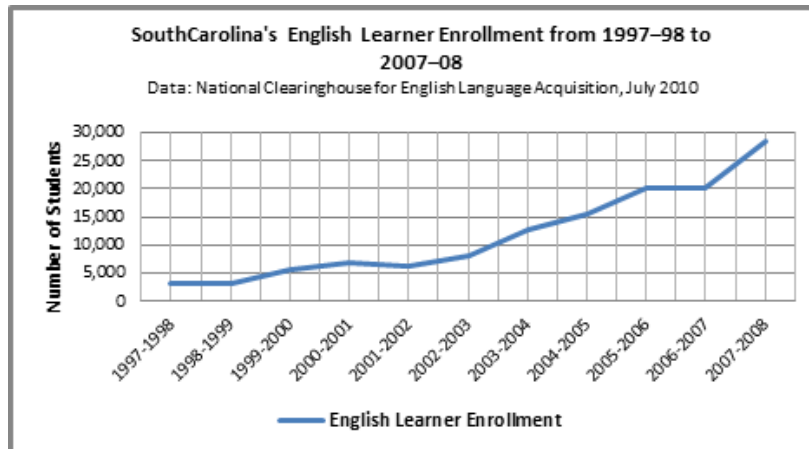
SOUTH CAROLINA



South Carolina adopted the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics in 2010 and began classroom implementation in the 2014–15 school year. The standards were originally set for full implementation in the 2013-14 school year, but that year was used as bridge year where the Common Core was used for instructional purposes but not for assessment.¹

ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2007–08, South Carolina’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **over 827 percent**, according to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA).² National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports show that from 2005–06 to 2010–11, **South Carolina’s English learner enrollment continued to rise** to over 36,000 students.³



In 2010–11, English learners accounted **5.1 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 756,000. For 2009–10, South Carolina state assessments reported 31,511 English learner students, **80 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language**. Less than 3 percent each of English learners spoke Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese and Arabic.⁴

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

South 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 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 programs.⁵ South Carolina joined the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) in 2013.⁶

ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

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

- The percentage of fourth-grade English learners that met standards in reading was 70%.
- The percentage of eighth-grade English learners that met standards in math was 60%.

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

- In South Carolina, 20% of fourth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In South Carolina, 29% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- In South Carolina, 19% of eighth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 5% nationally.
- In South Carolina, 32% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

South Carolina-reported adjusted cohort on-time graduation rates were¹⁸:

- In 2010–11, 62% for English learners and 74% for all students.
- In 2011–12, 64% for English learners and 75% for all students.

HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- South Carolina uses the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA), which consists of four tests designed to “measure academic and social language proficiency in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.”⁷
- South Carolina has a differential learning policy based on proficiency levels for heritage speakers who want to continue with their native languages.⁸
- On April 14, 2014 South Carolina Superintendent of Education Mick Zais decided to withdraw South Carolina from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, despite an April 9, 2014 state board of education vote to remain with the Smarter Balanced Assessment.⁹

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- South Carolina was approved in 2012 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**.¹⁰ Under its waiver plan, South Carolina indicated that it was revising its English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) standards to align them with Common Core for ELA. The SCDE pledged to work with the state board of education and the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee to analyze the linguistic demands of the Common Core in ELA and to develop aligned ESOL standards that can be used by both ESOL and English immersion content teachers and address social and academic language development across the four language domains in the major content disciplines.¹¹
- South Carolina was a finalist in both Rounds 1 and 2 of the **Race to the Top (RTT) competition**.¹² In 2013, a consortium of four rural school districts in South Carolina (Clarendon County School District Two) won the Race to the Top-District Grant Competition.¹³

1 South Carolina Dept. of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/190/>

2 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed March 2014) http://www.ncele.us/files/uploads/20/South_Carolina_G_0708.pdf

3 National Center for Education Statistics (accessed March 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 - South Carolina,” Feb. 2011, page 48

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

6 WIDA Blog (accessed March 2014) <http://widaatwcer.blogspot.com/2013/08/welcome-michigan-and-south-carolina.html>

7 South Carolina Dept. of ED (accessed March 2014) <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/42/>

8 South Carolina Foreign Language Teachers’ Association (accessed March 2014) http://www.scflta.org/PDF/pubs/2013_SC_Standard_for_WL_Proficiency_08-13-13.pdf, page 3

9 Education Week, “S.C. Chief Declares State Will Leave Smarter Balanced After All” (accessed April 2014) http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/state_edwatch/2014/04/sc_chief_declares_state_will_leave.html

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

11 U.S. Department of Education South Carolina ESEA Flexibility Request (accessed March 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/approved-requests/scp3amend011414.pdf> page 28-29

12 South Carolina Dept. of ED (accessed March 2014) <https://www.gadoe.org/Race-to-the-Top>

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

14 ED Data Express: South Carolina (accessed March 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm/tab/sd/state/SC/>

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

16 The Nation’s Report Card: Mathematics 2011 (accessed March 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 March 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: South Carolina (accessed March 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm?state=SC>