

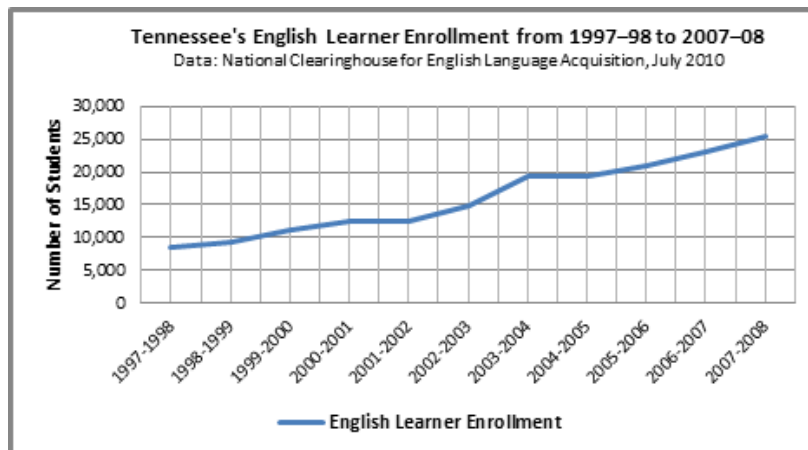
## STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

# TENNESSEE

Tennessee adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 and began classroom implementation in the 2013–14 school year. The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) has completed plans to implement teacher professional development, curriculum guides and instructional materials, and teacher-evaluation systems aligned with the Common Core standards.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Tennessee recently revamped its social studies standards for implementation in 2014-15.<sup>2</sup>

### ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2007–08, Tennessee’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **over 200 percent**, according to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA).<sup>3</sup> National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports show that from 2005–06 to 2010–11, **Tennessee’s English learner enrollment continued to increase, but at a more gradual level, to about 27,500 students.**<sup>4</sup>



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **3 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 987,000. For 2009–10, Tennessee state assessments reported 30,537 English learners students, **72 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language.** 5.5 percent spoke Arabic; less than 2 percent each of English learner spoke Vietnamese, Somali and Chinese.<sup>5</sup>

### ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

Tennessee 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 and heritage language programs.<sup>6</sup> Tennessee uses the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Proficiency Standards.<sup>7</sup>

### ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

#### *Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) for 2012–13<sup>14</sup>:*

- The percentage of third- to eighth- grade English learners that met standards in reading was 20.7%.
- The percentage of third- to eighth- grade English learners that met standards in math was 33.8%.

#### *2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)<sup>15 16</sup>:*

- In Tennessee, 5% of fourth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In Tennessee, 26% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- NAEP did not report Tennessee eighth-grade math scores for English learners.
- In Tennessee, 24% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

#### *Tennessee-reported adjusted cohort on-time graduation rates were<sup>17</sup>:*

- In 2010–11, 71% for English learners and 86% for all students.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- Tennessee gives the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA), an untimed assessment, to four grade clusters (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12).<sup>8</sup>
- Tennessee is a governing state of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Career (PARCC).<sup>9</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- Tennessee was approved in 2012 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**.<sup>10</sup> Under its waiver plan, TDOE indicated that it would “track the progress of English Learners under Title III for those LEAs receiving Title III funds as the new AMOs will become the third annual measurable achievement objective (AMAO) under that program.”<sup>11</sup>
  - o TDOE decided to extend accommodations to English Learners for up to two years after they exit the state’s English as a Second Language (ESL) program.
- In 2010, Tennessee was awarded **\$501 million from the Race to the Top (RTT)** competition to implement its four-year comprehensive school reform plans for adopting new standards, building data systems, recruiting and retaining effective teachers, and turning around the lowest-performing schools.<sup>12</sup>
  - o In 2013, Tennessee introduced the TNLEAD leadership grants to find partnerships or replicate data and results driven programs aimed toward improving leader effectiveness and improving student outcomes.<sup>13</sup>

1 Education First and Editorial Projects in Education (accessed March 2014) [http://www.edweek.org/media/movingforward\\_ef\\_epe\\_020413.pdf](http://www.edweek.org/media/movingforward_ef_epe_020413.pdf)

2 Tennessee Department of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://www.tennessee.gov/education/curriculum.shtml>

3 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed March 2014) [http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/20/Tennessee\\_G\\_0708.pdf](http://www.ncela.us/files/uploads/20/Tennessee_G_0708.pdf)

4 National Center for Education Statistics (accessed March 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. Department of Education, “Consolidated State Performance Report: School Year 2009-10 - Tennessee,” Feb. 2011, page 48

6 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed March 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://www.wida.us/membership/states/>

8 Tennessee Department of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://www.tn.gov/education/assessment/ELLAssessments.shtml>

9 PARCC (accessed March 2014) <https://www.parcconline.org/tennessee>

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

11 U.S. Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Request Revision 5 (accessed March 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/approved-requests/tnrequestamended072413.pdf> page 23

12 U.S. Department of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2010/03/03292010.html>

13 Tennessee Department of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://www.tn.gov/firsttothetop/>

14 2012-13 TCAP Achievement and End of Course Gap Results (accessed March 2014) [http://tn.gov/education/doc/TCAP\\_2012-13\\_achievement\\_gap.pdf](http://tn.gov/education/doc/TCAP_2012-13_achievement_gap.pdf)

15 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.

16 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.

17 Ed Data Express: Tennessee (accessed March 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm?state=TN>