

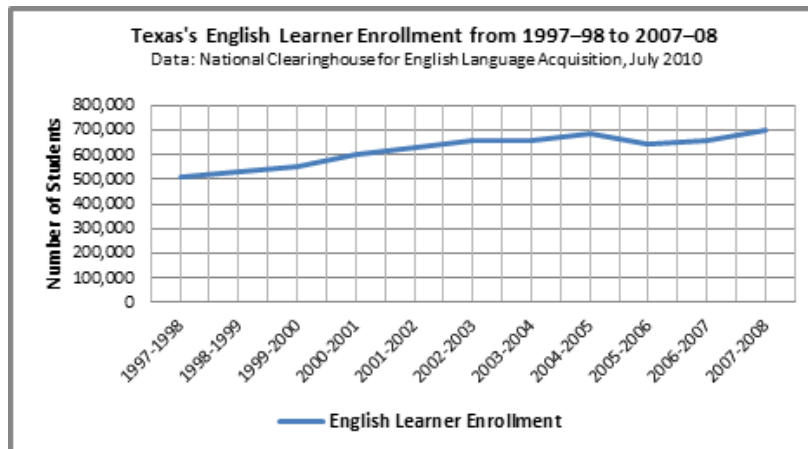
## STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS



Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are the state’s academic standards for numerous content areas, including career and technical education, fine arts, social studies, languages other than English, and technology applications in addition to mathematics and English language arts.<sup>1</sup>

### ENGLISH LEARNER POPULATION

Between 1997–98 and 2009–10, Texas’s reported student enrollment of English learner students increased by **over 38 percent**, according to the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA).<sup>2</sup> National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reports show that, after a dip in 2005-2006, **Texas’s English learner enrollment resumed its increase through 2010-2011.**<sup>3</sup>



In 2010–11, English learners accounted for **15 percent** of a total K-12 public school student population of about 4.9 million. For 2009–10, Texas state assessments reported 85,410 English learners students, **88 percent of whom spoke Spanish as their primary language.** Less than 2 percent spoke Vietnamese; about 0.5 percent each spoke Arabic, Chinese and Urdu.<sup>4</sup>

### ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS

Texas 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, content-based English as a second language (ESL), and pull-out ESL programs. Other LIEPs consist of two-way immersion, transitional bilingual and dual language.<sup>5</sup>

### ASSESSMENTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

#### State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STARR) for 2012–13<sup>14</sup>:

- The percentage of fourth-grade English learners that met standards in reading was 53%.
- The percentage of eighth-grade English learners that met standards in math was 31%.

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

- In Texas, 9% of fourth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 7% nationally.
- In Texas, 33% of fourth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in reading. That number was 35% nationally.
- In Texas, 10% of eighth-grade English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 5% nationally.
- In Texas, 43% of eighth-grade non-English learners performed at or above proficient in math. That number was 35% nationally.

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

- In 2010–11, 58% for English learners and 86% for all students.
- In 2011–12, 59% for English learners and 88% for all students.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF STATE POLICY

- By state law, Texas uses Language Proficiency Assessment Committees (LPACs), operated by school districts, to ensure compliance with state requirements.<sup>6</sup>
  - o School districts with 20 or more English learner students must offer bilingual education.
  - o LPACS also train teachers to administer and provide resources for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR), the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) and the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).<sup>7</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FEDERAL LAW AND PROGRAMS

- Texas was approved in 2013 for an **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver**.<sup>8</sup> Under its waiver plan, Texas indicated that “uniform federal performance rate targets are applied to seven student groups in the reading/English language arts and mathematics subject areas. The seven student groups evaluated are all students, African American, Hispanic, White, economically disadvantaged, students receiving special education services, and English language learners.”<sup>9</sup>
  - o Texas lowered the minimum number of students necessary for individual subgroup performance to be considered in the accountability system (known as “n-size”) from 50 to 25.<sup>10</sup>
  - o Texas has compiled resources that support both language development and content understanding for English learners “on the Texas English Language Learner Web Portal ([www.elltx.org](http://www.elltx.org)); they are available to educators and parents throughout the state. This website includes resources, tools and training materials that are designed to support educators in effectively serving ELLs and also in improving content knowledge and English proficiency.”<sup>11</sup>
- Texas has not submitted any **Race to the Top (RTT) competition** applications.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2013, the Houston Independent School District was one of five winners of the Race to the Top-District Grant competition.<sup>13</sup>

1 Texas Department of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148>

2 National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (accessed March 2014) [http://www.ncele.us/files/uploads/20/Texas\\_G\\_0708.pdf](http://www.ncele.us/files/uploads/20/Texas_G_0708.pdf)

3 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)

4 U.S. Department of Education, “Consolidated State Performance Report: School Year 2009-10 - Texas,” 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](http://www.ncele.us/files/uploads/3/Biennial_Report_0810.pdf)

6 Texas Department of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://www.screven.k12.ga.us/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=llSna12ileY%3D&tabid=12332&mid=27220>

7 Texas Department of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/ell/lpac/>

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

9 U.S. Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Request (accessed March 2014) <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/approved-requests/txrequestltr092613.pdf> page 39

10 Ibid. page 43

11 Ibid. page 17

12 Texas Department of Education (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 Texas Department of Education (accessed March 2014) <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/rpt/sum/yr13/>

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: Texas (accessed March 2014) <http://eddataexpress.ed.gov/state-report.cfm/tab/sd/state/TX/>