During the 2000–01 school year (SY), a total of 3,793,764 English learners (ELs) were enrolled in public schools in kindergarten through grade 12 in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, representing 8.1% of total student enrollment. By the SY 2016–17, the EL population had grown by more than one million students to a total of 4,858,377 ELs, representing 9.6% of total student enrollment. Nationally, the percentage of ELs enrolled in U.S. schools rose by 1.5 percentage points between SY 2000–01 and SY 2016–17.

### SY 2000–01
- **ELs** of total enrollment: 3,793,764
- **Non-ELs** of total enrollment: 1,788,926

### SY 2016–17
- **ELs** of total enrollment: 4,858,377
- **Non-ELs** of total enrollment: 1,788,926

#### English Learners as a Percentage of Total Enrollment, Top 10 States: SY 2000–01
- **California**: 24.5%
- **New Mexico**: 21.4%
- **Arizona**: 15.0%
- **Alaska**: 14.5%
- **Texas**: 14.1%
- **D.C.**: 12.5%
- **Nevada**: 11.2%
- **Colorado**: 8.4%
- **Utah**: 8.2%
- **New York**: 8.0%

#### English Learners as a Percentage of Total Enrollment, Top 10* States: SY 2016–17
- **California**: 20.2%
- **Texas**: 17.2%
- **Nevada**: 15.9%
- **New Mexico**: 13.4%
- **Colorado**: 11.7%
- **Washington**: 11.1%
- **Kansas**: 11.1%
- **Alaska**: 11.0%
- **Florida**: 10.3%
- **Oregon**: 9.8%
- **Illinois**: 9.8%

*The chart below includes 11 states because Illinois and Oregon tied for 10th place.

Forty-three states saw increases in their EL populations as a percentage of total student enrollment between SY 2000–01 and SY 2016–17, ranging from just a 0.1 percentage point increase in Hawaii and South Dakota to a 7.9 percentage point increase in Kansas. Seven states and the District of Columbia saw declines in their EL populations as a percentage of total student enrollment, ranging from a decrease of 8.8 percentage points in Arizona to a decrease of 1.9 percentage points in Utah.
The number of ELs in the U.S. grew 28.1% between the 2000–01 school year and the 2016–17 school year. Forty-three states saw the number of ELs increase, ranging from 315 ELs in Wyoming to 351,559 ELs in Texas. Of these 43 states, the increases of ELs as a percentage of the total EL student population ranged from a 2.7% increase in New York to a 765.1% increase in South Carolina.


Seven states and the District of Columbia saw the number of ELs decrease, ranging from 60 ELs in Hawaii to 219,147 ELs in California. Of these seven states, the decrease of ELs as a percentage of the total EL student population ranged from a 0.5% decrease in Hawaii to a 61.1% decrease in Montana.

-219,147 Hawaii
-61,387 Arizona
-23,780 New Mexico
-4,713 Alaska
-4,675 Montana
-4,713 Montana
-2,020 D.C.
-1,910 Idaho
-60 Hawaii