



Languages Spoken by English Learners (ELs)

Fact: State-Reported Top Five Languages Spoken by ELs

States annually report the five most common languages spoken by ELs and the number of ELs who speak each of those languages. More than 50 languages appear in one or more states' top five lists. In SY 2011-12, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Hmong were the most common languages listed.

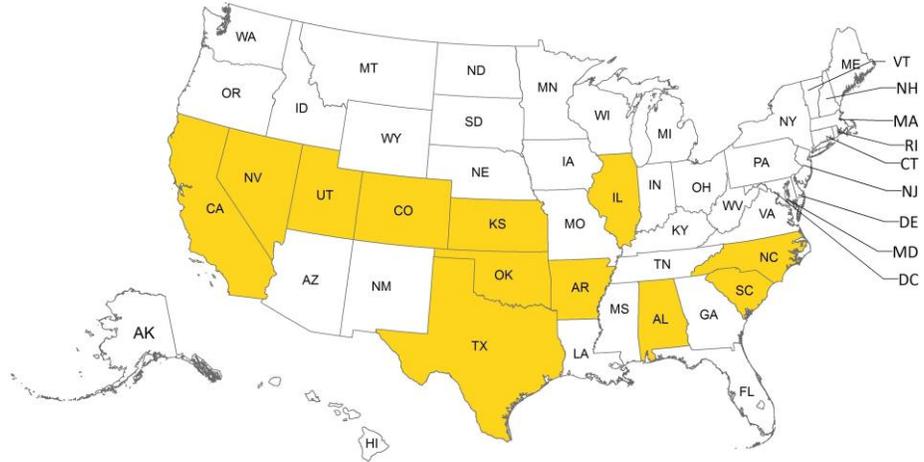
Top 20 EL Languages, as Reported in States' Top Five Lists: SY 2011-12

Languages	Reported Number of EL Speakers
Spanish	3,562,860
Chinese	88,798
Vietnamese	79,021
Arabic	64,487
Hmong	40,445
Haitian, Haitian Creole	38,227
Tagalog	23,192
Somali	19,514
Navajo	9,372
Russian	8,687
Urdu	8,614
Portuguese	8,416
Bengali	8,385
Yupik languages	7,072
Korean	5,868
Polish	5,302
Creoles and pidgins, Portuguese-based (Other)	3,785
Karen languages	3,589
Iloko	3,347
Marshallese	3,257

Note: Figures reflect the combined number of reported speakers of a language in states where that language was one of the state's five most common EL languages. This list includes only those languages for which specified data were listed. "Undetermined" and "not applicable" languages were not included in the list above. Source: U.S. Department of Education, Consolidated State Performance Reports, SY 2011-12.

**States, Including DC, With 80 Percent or More Spanish-Speaking ELs:
SY 2011-12**

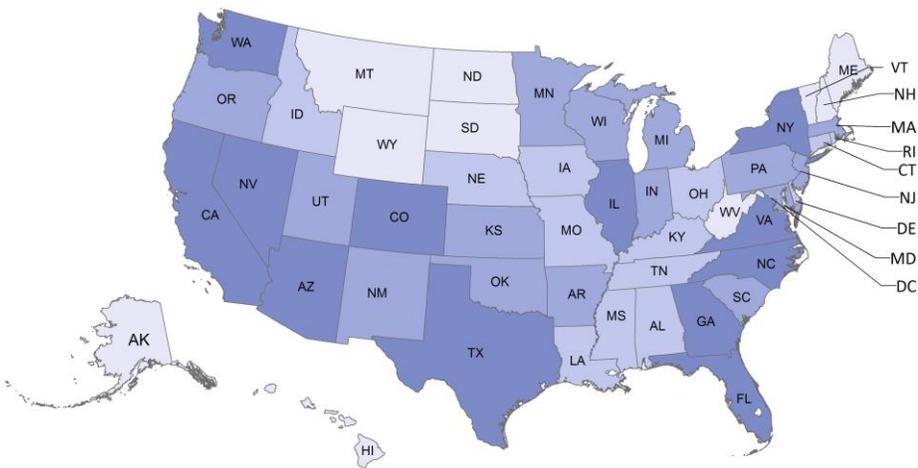
Fact
Twelve states reported that 80 percent or more of ELs in the state spoke Spanish in SY 2011-12.



80% or more of ELs were Spanish speakers (N=12)
Less than 80% of ELs were Spanish speakers (N=39)

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Consolidated State Performance Reports, SY 2011-12.

**Number of Spanish-Speaking ELs, by State, Including DC:
SY 2011-12**



5,000 or fewer (N=11) 25,001 - 50,000 (N=15)
5,001 - 25,000 (N=13) 50,001 or more (N=12)

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Consolidated State Performance Reports, SY 2011-12

Fact
In SY 2011-12, Spanish-speaking ELs were concentrated in 12 states. Five of these states—California, Texas, Florida, Illinois, and New York—also reported the highest numbers of ELs overall.



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