

TRENDS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS' ENGLISH LEARNER ENROLLMENTS

Overview

English Learners (ELs) are increasing in many areas of the nation. Where are these students? Which school districts have the greatest numbers? Which school districts show the greatest growth? In some states, rural school districts are experiencing a great deal of growth, while in other states urban areas are experiencing growth. These trends are often in contrast to an overall decrease in the mainstream enrollment, as well as some decreases in EL enrollment. *Trends in School Districts' English Learner Enrollments* highlights ten school districts in each state that have a high incidence of ELs, high growth of ELs, and/or are rural.

Definition of Terms and Categories

Each state in the nation varies according to student enrollment numbers, overall population, and rural vs. urban areas. The data presented in these district profiles include students enrolled in grades preK-12 in the school years 1999-2000, 2004-05, and 2009-10. The three categories of interest are defined below.

High Incidence School districts are identified as "high incidence" based on the number of ELs enrolled in comparison to other districts in that state. A high incidence in one state can be quite different from a high incidence in another.

High Growth School districts are identified as "high growth" in 2009-10, as compared to 2004-05 or 1999-00. As with high incidence, the percentage of growth considered "high" varied by state and the size of the school district.

Rural Rural school districts were defined according to the National Center for Educational Statistics definition of rural. This definition was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau and includes small districts within a close distance to urban areas, further from urban areas, and those that are in remote areas. More information is available at [Identification of Rural Locales](#).

Source of Data

The source of student numbers for EL enrollment, overall enrollment, and type of school districts comes from NCES. [NCES](#) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education. School district contact information was obtained through individual school district websites. Maps were obtained from various web sources.

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