

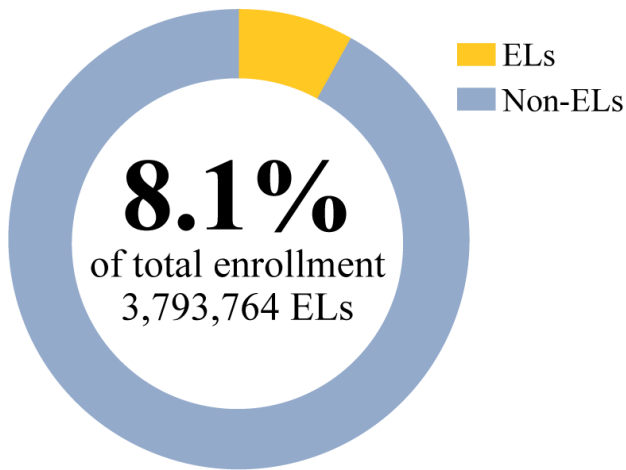


Office of English Language Acquisition

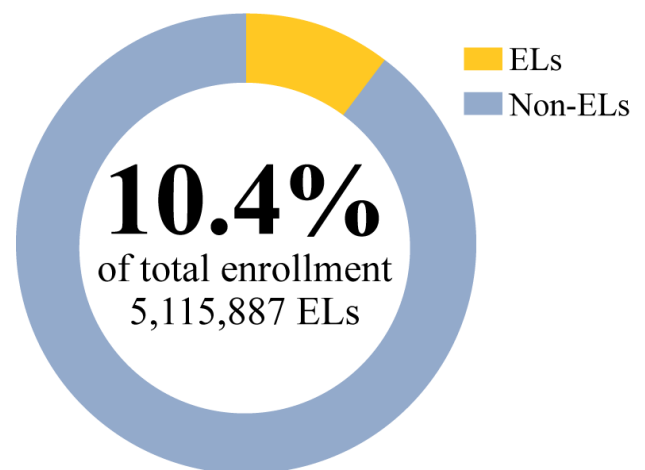
English Learners: Demographic Trends

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 SY 2019–20, the EL population had grown by almost 1 million and a half students to a total of 5,115,887 ELs, representing 10.4% of total student enrollment. Nationally, the percentage of ELs enrolled in U.S. schools rose by 2.3 percentage points between SY 2000–01 and SY 2019–20.

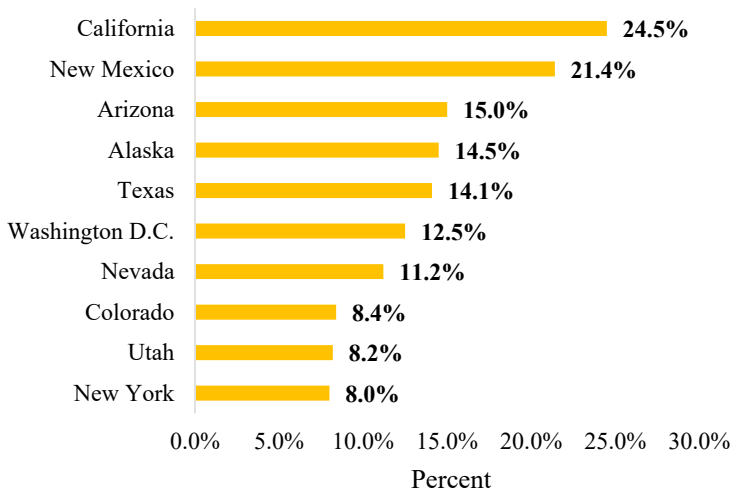
School Year 2000–01



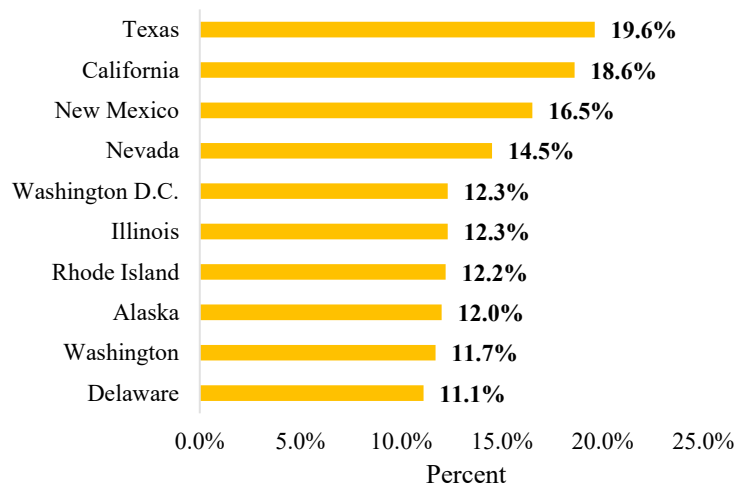
School Year 2019–20



English Learners as a Percentage of Total Enrollment Within the Top 10 States: School Year 2000–01

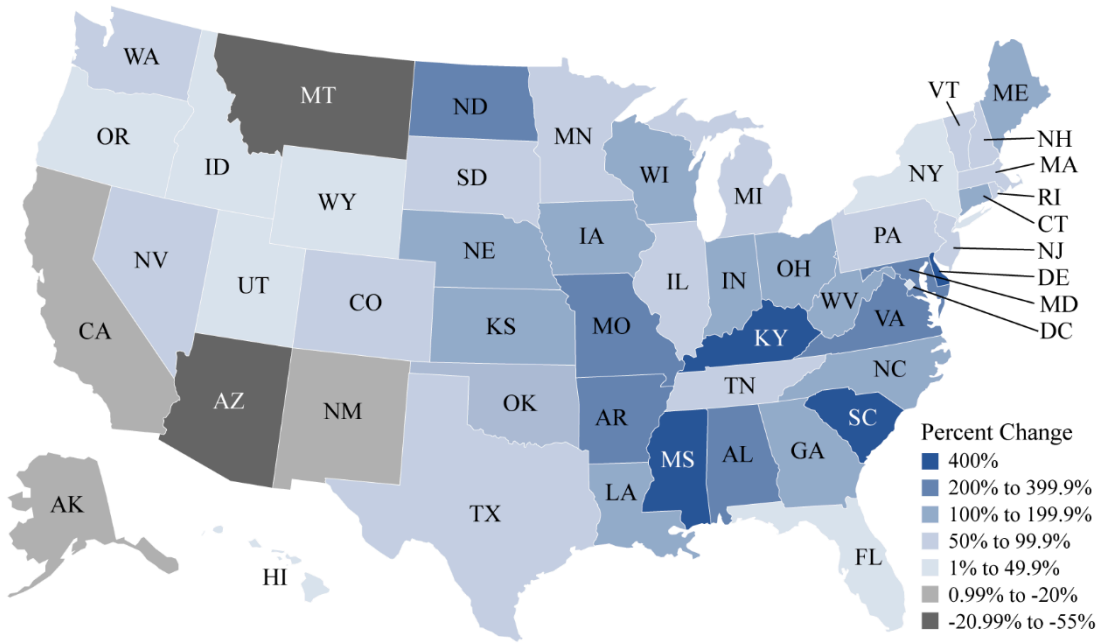


English Learners as a Percentage of Total Enrollment Within the Top 10 States: School Year 2019–20



While some states experienced increases in their EL population as a percentage of the total K–12 enrollment between the SYs 2000–01 and 2019–20, other states have experienced decreases. For example, both Nevada and Texas saw its EL population, as a percentage of its total enrollment, increase by over 3 percentage points and 5 percentage points respectively. Other states, such as California and New Mexico, experienced decreases of almost 5 percentage points in their EL population as a percentage of their total K–12 enrollment between the SYs 2000–01 and 2019–20.

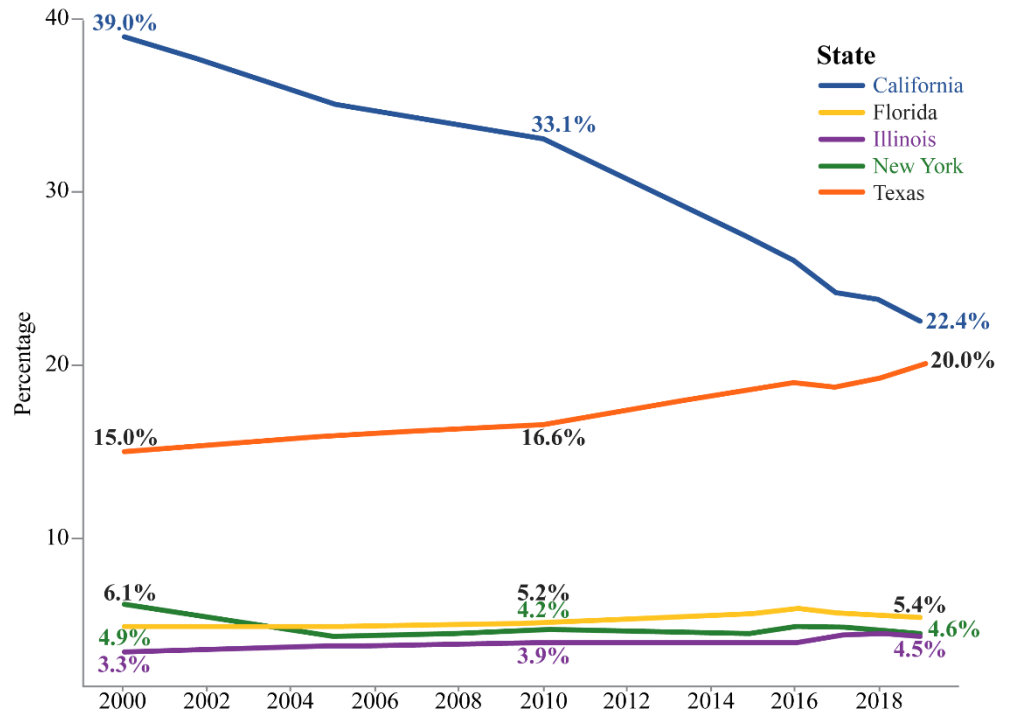
Percent Change in Numbers of English Learners Per State: School Year 2000–01 to School Year 2019–20



In addition to seeing increases in the percentage of ELs as part of the total student population, the EL student population in the U.S. grew by almost 35% between SY 2000–01 and SY 2019–20. Forty-five states and the District of Columbia saw the numbers of ELs increase. Wyoming’s EL population increased by 8%, or 202 ELs, whereas Texas’ EL population jumped by almost 80%, or 451,087 students. Only five states saw their numbers of ELs decrease between SY 2000–01 and SY 2019–20.

Change in English Learner Enrollment as a Percentage of Total English Learner Enrollment, Top Five States: School Year 2000–01 to School Year 2019–20

This line graph shows the EL enrollment pattern for states with the largest percent change in the number of ELs as the percentage of total EL enrollment in the U.S. between SYs 2000–01 and 2019–20. In SY 2000–01 California enrolled 39% of all ELs in U.S. schools, but only 22% in SY 2019–20. Conversely, Texas enrolled a larger share of the nation’s ELs from SY 2000–01 to SY 2019–20, increasing from 15% in SY 2000–01 to 20% in SY 2019–20.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics (2021). Digest of educational statistics. “Table 204.20 English learner (EL) students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools, by state: Selected years, fall 2000 through fall 2019”.

https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d21/tables/dt21_204.20.asp