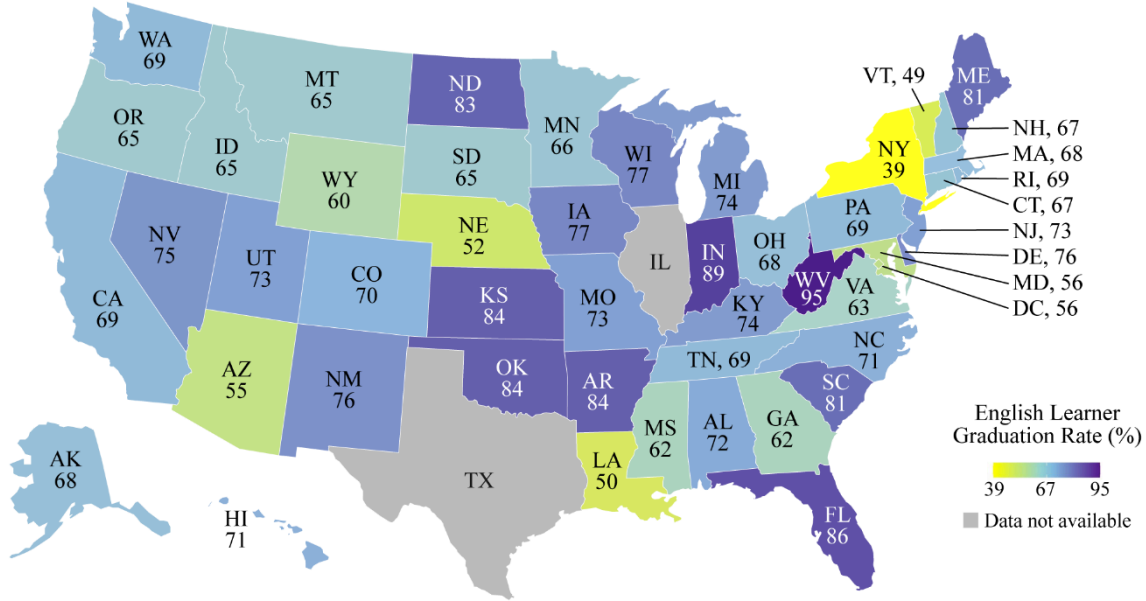




# Office of English Language Acquisition

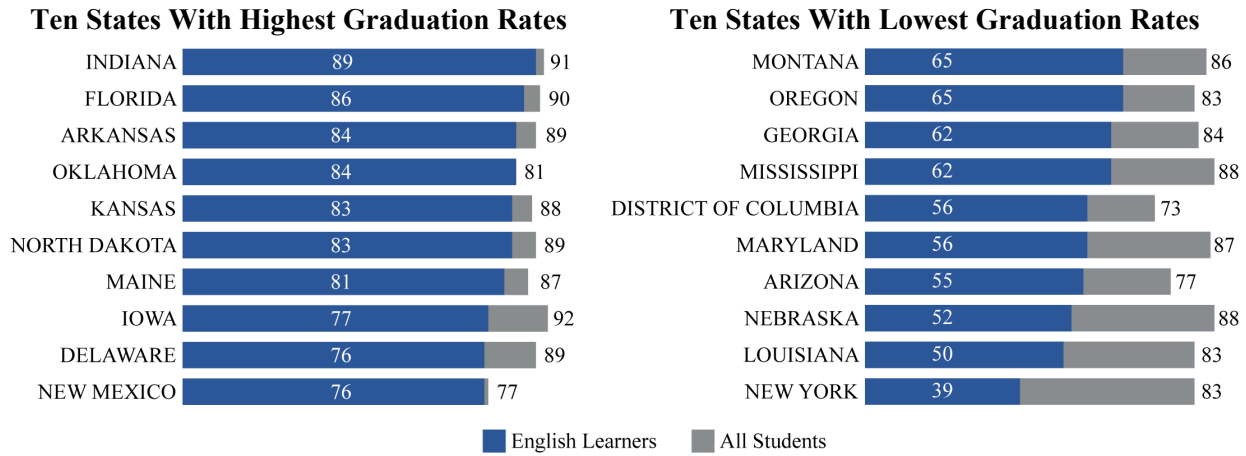
## High School Graduation Rates for English Learners

### State-Level Graduation Rate Percentages for English Learners: School Year 2019–20



Across the United States, the high school graduation rates for English learners (ELs) during the school year (SY) 2019–20 ranged from a low of 39% in New York to a high of 89% in Indiana and 86% in Florida. The median state-level high school graduation rate for ELs was 69%. It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted some states' abilities to collect and report graduation data.

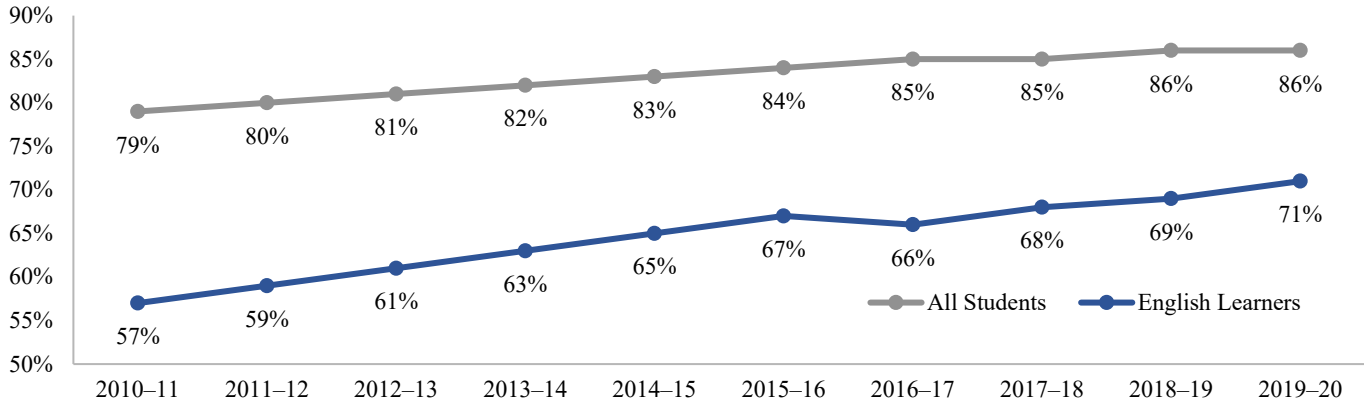
### Graduation Rate Percentages for English Learners and All Students by State: School Year 2019–20



In states with the highest EL graduation rates, the gaps between ELs' and all students' graduation rates were smaller than in the states with lowest EL graduation rates. In New Mexico, there was only one percentage point difference between ELs' and all students' graduation rate. Whereas in New York, the state with the lowest EL graduation rate nationwide, the difference between ELs' and all students' graduation rate was 44 percentage points.

Note: The Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate (ACGR) reports state by state calculated rates of graduation by measuring "the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who form the adjusted cohort for the graduating class." The original cohort of students in ninth grade is adjusted by adding students who transfer into the cohort and subtracting students who leave the cohort, whether by transferring, emigrating to another country, or dying. Comparison of ACGR across states may raise measurement issues. ACGRs are more comparable across states than the graduation rates previously compiled by the U.S. Department of Education. However, there has been some variation in the way that individual states have implemented ACGR requirements. Examples of ways in which the calculated ACGR may vary among states include how students are identified for inclusion in certain subgroups, how the beginning of the cohort is defined, and whether summer school students are included. In addition, graduation requirements for obtaining a regular public high school diploma vary across states. COVID-19 impacted states' ability to collect and report data. The Department urges abundant caution when using the data and recommends reviewing the relevant data notes and state comments prior to use and interpretation.

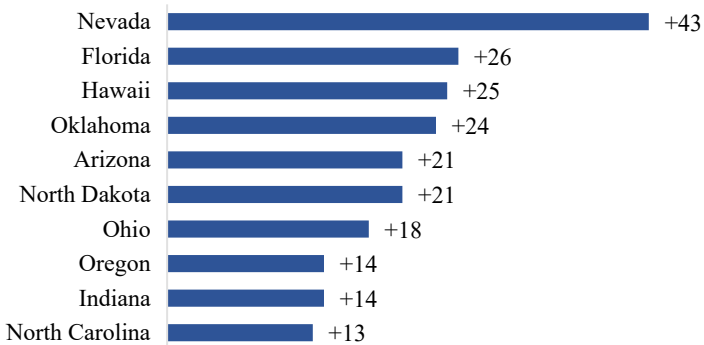
## National High School Graduation Rate Percentages for English Learners and All Students: SYs 2010–11 to 2019–20



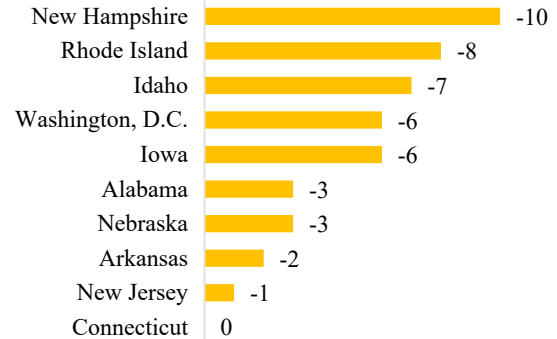
The national high school graduation rate for ELs increased between SYs 2010–11 and 2019–20. The only exception was a one-percentage point decrease in SY 2016–17. In SY 2018–19 there was a one point increase from the previous school year and in SY 2019–20, there was a two-percentage point increase in the national EL graduation rate.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, during those 10 school years (SYs 2010–11 to 2019–20), the high school graduation rate for ELs increased by 14 percentage points, from 57% to 71%. In addition, the gap in the high school graduation rate between all students and ELs narrowed by 8 percentage points, decreasing from a difference of 22 percentage points in SY 2010–11 to 14 percentage points in SY 2019–20.

## Percentage Point Changes in English Learners’ High School Graduation Rates: SYs 2014–15 to 2019–20<sup>2</sup>

### Ten States With the Greatest EL Graduation Rates Increases



### Ten States With the Greatest EL Graduation Rates Decreases



From SY 2014–15 to SY 2019–20, Nevada experienced the greatest increase in ELs’ graduation rates, while New Hampshire experienced the greatest decrease. While Nevada’s EL graduation rates more than doubled, it was not among the 10 states with highest graduation rates, with just over 75% of ELs graduating in SY 2019–20. Only four states with the greatest EL graduation rate increases were among the 10 states with the highest EL graduation rates in SY 2019–20 (Florida, Oklahoma, Indiana, and North Dakota). Oregon, which was among the 10 states with the greatest increase in graduation rates, was one of the 10 states with the lowest EL graduation rates in 2019–20, indicating that while EL graduation rates in Oregon improved, only 65% of ELs graduated high school in four years.

Source for document: U.S. Department of Education. EDFacts FS150 – Adjusted-Cohort Graduation Rate (SY 2019–20), Retrieved from <https://eddataexpress.ed.gov/> on 02/21/2023.

<sup>1</sup> As some state educational agencies (SEAs) may have changed their requirements for a regular high school diploma to account for the impact of COVID-19, NCES advises caution when interpreting changes between 2019-20 and prior years.

<sup>2</sup> State data may vary from year to year for a number of reasons. For information on the quality of the state-level adjusted cohort graduation rate data, visit EDFacts Initiative site to review public file documentation and data notes (tip: not all states submit data notes): <https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/data-files/index.html#acgr>. For more information on how these data are defined and collected, go to the EDFacts Initiative site to review SY 2019-20 file specifications for FS150 and FS151.