

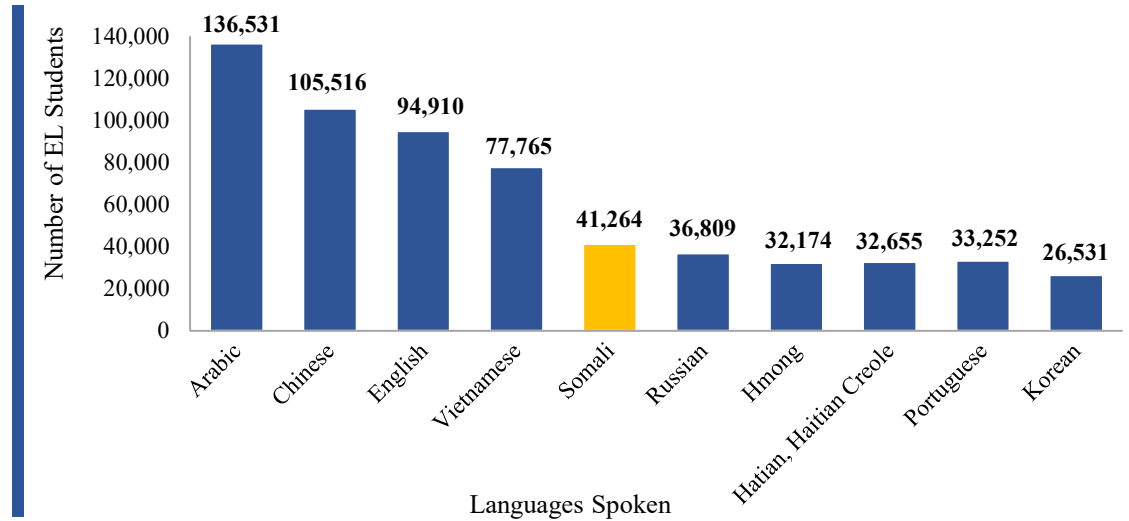


Office of English Language Acquisition

English Learners Who Speak Somali as a Home Language

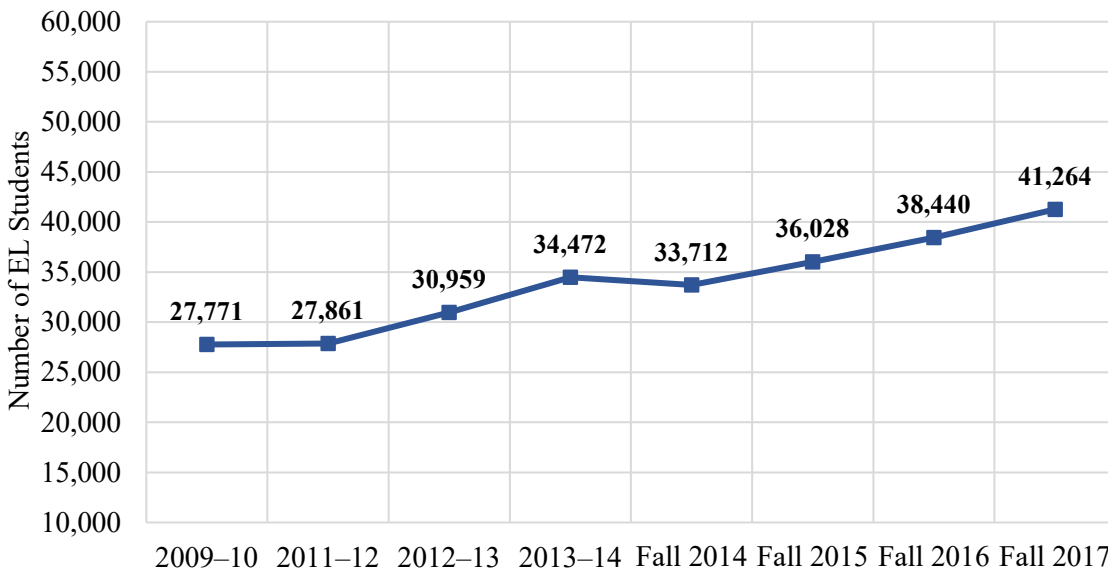
Most Common Home Languages and Language Categories (Excluding Spanish) Spoken by English Learner Students in K–12: 2016–17 School Year¹

During the 2017–18 school year (SY), Somali was the sixth most common home language group spoken by English learners (ELs) with 41,264 speakers.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (2018). Table 204.27. English learner (EL) students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools by home language, grade, and selected student characteristics: Selected years, 2009–10 through fall 2017. In U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics’ *Digest of Education Statistics* (2018 ed.). Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d19/tables/dt19_204.27.asp.

Numbers of Reported English Learner Students Who Speak Somali as a Home Language: 2009–10 School Year Through Fall 2017–18



Since SY 2009–10, the number of EL students in public elementary and secondary schools who speak Somali has increased by approximately 48%, or over 13,000 students.

Source: U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics (2018). Table 204.27. English learner (EL) students enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools by home language, grade, and selected student characteristics: Selected years, 2009–10 through Fall 2017. In U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics’ (Ed.), *Digest of Education Statistics* (2018 ed.). Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d19/tables/dt19_204.27.asp.

Note: National Center for Education Statistics data were reported by school year through 2013–14 and by fall semester for SY 2014–15 and later. Data for 2010–11 SY were not reported.

¹ Examples of situations in which English might be reported as an English learner’s home language include students who live in multilingual households and students adopted from other countries who speak English at home but also have been raised speaking another language. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d19/tables/dt19_204.27.asp.

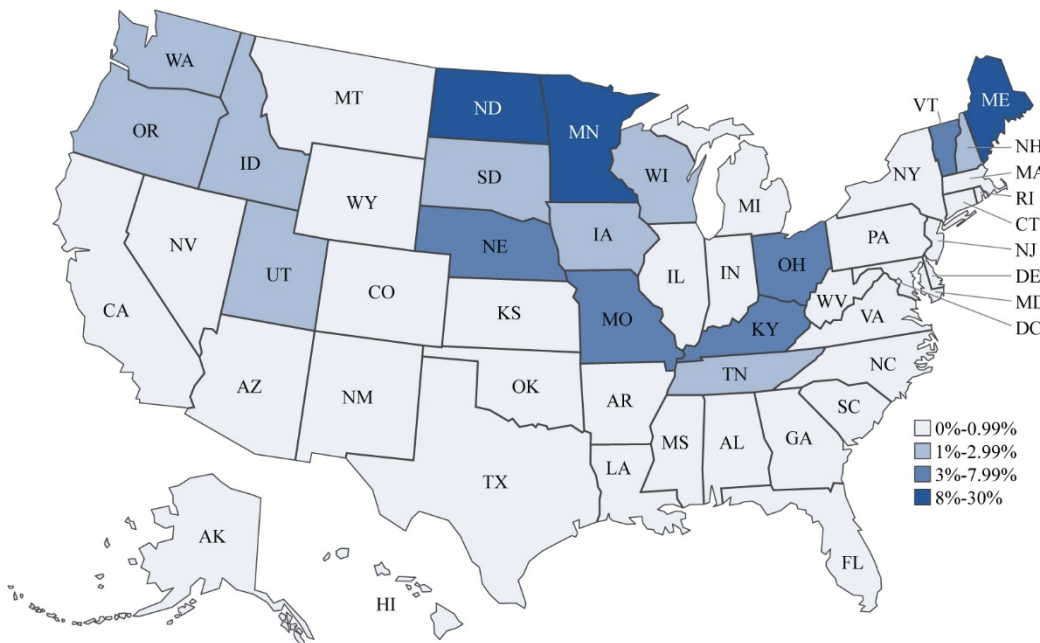
Ten States with the Highest Numbers* of English Learner Students Who Speak Somali as a Home Language: 2017–18 School Year

	Number of EL Students Who Speak Somali	Total Number of EL Students	Percentage of EL Students Who Speak Somali
Minnesota	16,810	73,129	22.99%
Ohio	3,978	52,957	7.51%
Washington	2,870	127,759	2.25%
Maine	1,623	5,741	28.27%
New York	1,552	243,186	0.64%
Texas	1,315	926,236	0.14%
Missouri	1,280	33,893	3.78%
California	1,221	1,271,150	0.10%
Colorado	1,007	104,276	0.97%
Kentucky	915	25,629	3.57%
U.S. Totals	41,264	5,010,505	0.82%

*The data in this table are organized by the number of ELs who speak Somali in each state, rather than by percentage.

During SY 2017–18, Minnesota and Ohio had the highest numbers of EL students who speak Somali (16,810 and 3,978, respectively). With 16,810, Minnesota’s numbers were over four times the numbers of Washington, which was the state with the third largest numbers of EL students who speak Somali at 2,870. While Maine had the highest percentage of ELs who speak Somali, it was fourth in terms of the number of EL Somali speakers with 1,623 EL students who speak Somali.

Percentages of English Learner Students Who Speak Somali² as a Home Language: 2017–18 School Year



During SY 2017–18, among all EL students nationally 0.82% of students, or 41,246, reported speaking Somali. Among the 50 states and Washington, D.C., Maine and Minnesota had the highest percentages of EL students who speak Somali out of all ELs (28.27% and 22.99%, respectively). North Dakota had the third-highest percentage of Somali speakers at 14.98%

Source for page: *FS141 – EL Enrolled (SY 2017-18)*, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC: *EDFacts*. Retrieved 2/5/20 from [ED Data Express](#)

² The percentages of EL students who speak Somali was calculated by dividing the number of EL students who speak Somali in each state by the total number of EL students and multiplying by 100.