



Florida Information Note

Education Information & Accountability Services

English Language Learners

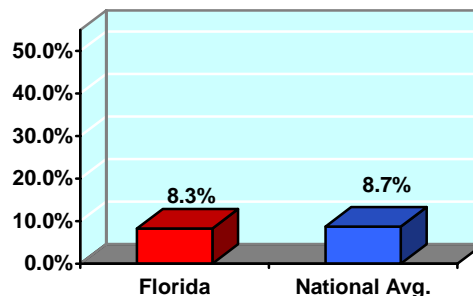
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English Language Learners: Florida and the Nation

Florida Statutes define an English Language Learner (ELL) as “an individual who was not born in the United States and whose native language is a language other than English; an individual who comes from a home environment where a language other than English is spoken in the home; or an individual who is an American Indian or Alaskan native and who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on his or her level of English language proficiency; and who, by reason thereof, has sufficient difficulty speaking, reading, writing, or listening to the English language to deny such individual the opportunity to learn successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English” (1003.56(2)). States and local school districts receive federal aide under Title III, also known as the English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act, of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 to assist in implementing education programs for English Language Learners. National leadership in ELL education is administered by the Office of English Language Acquisition of the U.S. Department of Education.

Percent of Students who are English Language Learners, 2005-06



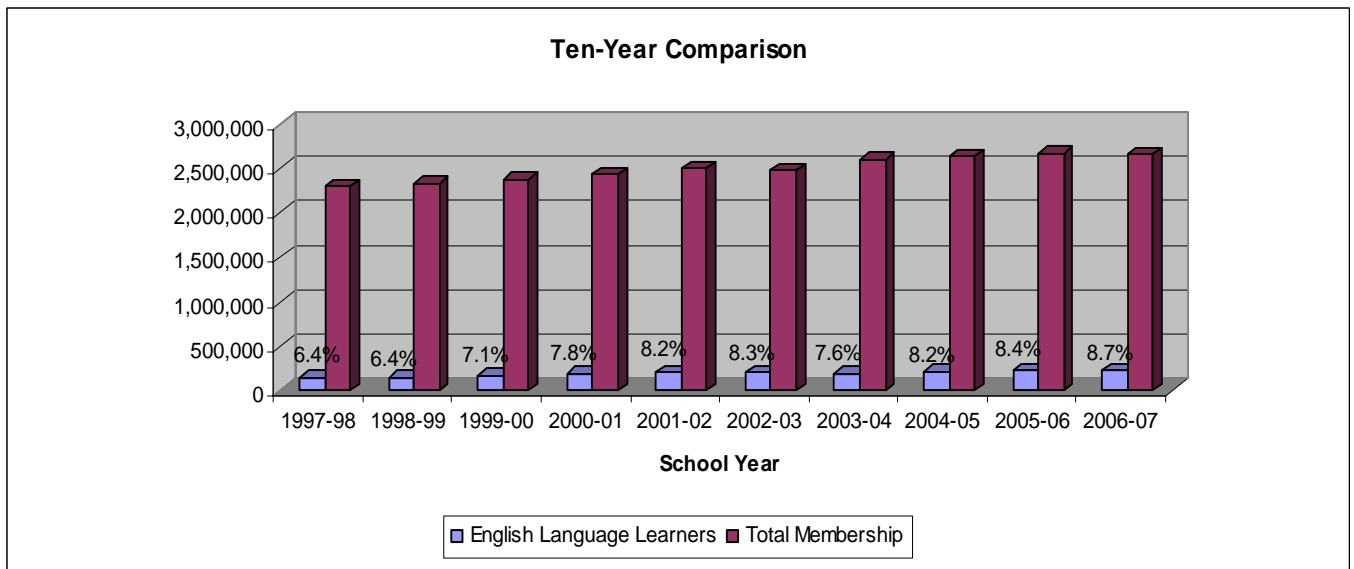
In 2005-06, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES),* more than 4,223,115 students (8.7%) in reporting states and the District of Columbia were English language learners. In the same year, more than 221,705 students (8.3%) in Florida were English language learners. As the fourth most-populous state, Florida’s ELL population is much smaller when compared to the two most populous states, Texas (15.7%) and California (25.1%). Florida’s ELL population is comparable to the third most populous state, New York (7.2%). Table 2 on page 5 provides additional state-level information.

* NCES, Common Core of Data. <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/bat/>.

Florida Update (2006-07)

Except for a slight decrease in 2003-04, the percentage of ELL students in Florida's public schools continued on a gradual, long-term upward trend for the last decade. The percentage of ELL students in school year 1997-98 was 6.4 percent, increasing to 8.3 percent by school year 2002-03. However, the percentage of ELL students tapered slightly to 7.6 percent in 2003-04 but began increasing again the following year. The ten-year numerical increase during this period amounts to 85,284 students (146,368 in 1997-98 vs. 231,652 in 2006-07), a cumulative increase of 58.3 percent in ten years. Nine districts reported ten percent or more of their enrollment as ELL in 2006-07, as compared to only five districts ten years prior.

In 2006-07, Gulf, Taylor, Union, and Wakulla counties had the lowest percentage of ELL students (0.1 percent), and Orange County had the highest percentage (19.7 percent). Dixie, Liberty, and Washington counties reported no ELL students in 2006-07. Orange County had the largest percentage gain in eligible students, from 6.9 percent in 1997-98 to 19.7 percent in 2006-07.



Note: Variability in factors such as the date of data compilation and certain selection criteria may result in slight differences between results reported for Florida by NCES and corresponding statewide results reported for Florida public schools by the Florida Department of Education.

Race Distribution (Florida)

Among racial/ethnic groups in 2006-07, the Hispanic population had the largest percentage of ELL students (27.6%), followed by the Asian population with 15.9%. Both Hispanic and multiracial populations have experienced increases in their percentages of ELL students over the past ten years. The following charts provide additional detail.

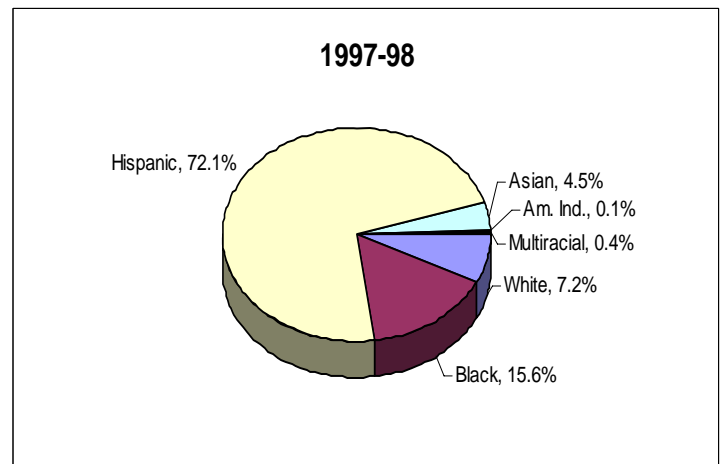
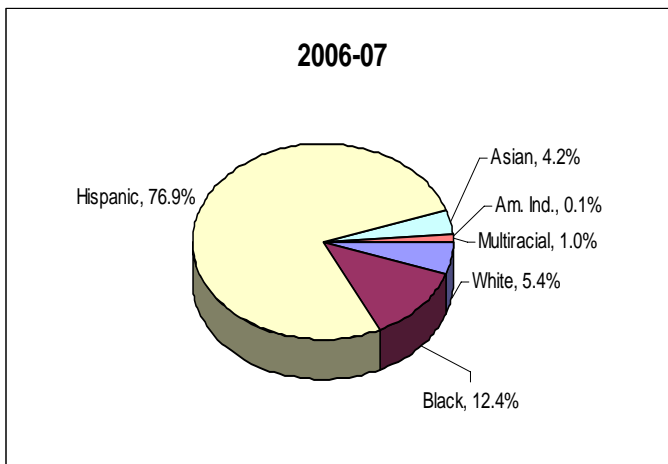
Percentage of ELL Students

Race	School Year 2006-07	School Year 1997-98
White	1.0%	0.8%
Black	4.6%	3.9%
Hispanic	27.6%	28.1%
Asian	15.9%	16.1%
American Indian	3.9%	4.0%
Multiracial	2.7%	4.7%
Total	8.7%	6.4%

Proportional Changes by Race: ELL Students

Race	2006-07	1997-98	Change
White	5.4%	7.2%	-1.8%
Black	12.4%	15.6%	-3.2%
Hispanic	76.9%	72.1%	4.8%
Asian	4.2%	4.5%	-0.3%
American Indian	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Multiracial	1.0%	0.4%	0.6%

From 1997-98 to 2006-07, the racial/ethnic composition of ELL students shows little proportional changes. The Hispanic representation increased 4.8 percent as compared to the white and black representations, which decreased by 1.8 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.



Additional district-level data are shown in Table 1 on the following page.

Table 1: Number and Percentage English Language Learner (ELL) PK-12 Students in Florida

DISTRICT	2006-07			1997-98			
	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL ELL	PERCENT ELL	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL ELL	PERCENT ELL	PERCENT CHANGE
ALACHUA	29,005	454	1.6%	30,062	362	1.2%	0.4%
BAKER	4,975	8	0.2%	4,733	4	0.1%	0.1%
BAY	27,007	382	1.4%	26,036	191	0.7%	0.7%
BRADFORD	3,683	6	0.2%	4,150	1	0.0%	0.1%
BREVARD	74,807	1,590	2.1%	67,876	748	1.1%	1.0%
BROWARD	262,811	25,760	9.8%	224,784	18,708	8.3%	1.5%
CALHOUN	2,227	5	0.2%	2,282	11	0.5%	-0.3%
CHARLOTTE	17,894	228	1.3%	16,306	125	0.8%	0.5%
CITRUS	16,087	130	0.8%	14,597	83	0.6%	0.2%
CLAY	35,723	404	1.1%	26,755	225	0.8%	0.3%
COLLIER	43,186	6,825	15.8%	29,251	1,896	6.5%	9.3%
COLUMBIA	10,179	62	0.6%	9,400	25	0.3%	0.3%
DADE	353,831	56,921	16.1%	345,947	53,156	15.4%	0.7%
DESOTO	5,001	509	10.2%	4,571	261	5.7%	4.5%
DIXIE	2,241		0.0%	2,367	3	0.1%	-0.1%
DUVAL	125,180	3,684	2.9%	126,984	1,548	1.2%	1.7%
ESCAMBIA	42,709	385	0.9%	46,083	232	0.5%	0.4%
FLAGLER	12,130	372	3.1%	5,896	89	1.5%	1.6%
FRANKLIN	1,324	4	0.3%	1,508	2	0.1%	0.2%
GADSDEN	6,648	373	5.6%	8,497	371	4.4%	1.2%
GILCHRIST	2,889	38	1.3%	2,630	6	0.2%	1.1%
GLADES	1,257	51	4.1%	1,148	28	2.4%	1.6%
GULF	2,193	3	0.1%	2,359	0	0.0%	0.1%
HAMILTON	2,036	63	3.1%	2,332	44	1.9%	1.2%
HARDEE	5,037	310	6.2%	5,320	569	10.7%	-4.5%
HENDRY	7,463	554	7.4%	7,410	620	8.4%	-0.9%
HERNANDO	22,450	518	2.3%	16,111	252	1.6%	0.7%
HIGHLANDS	12,457	650	5.2%	11,071	416	3.8%	1.5%
HILLSBOROUGH	193,546	21,951	11.3%	152,759	15,290	10.0%	1.3%
HOLMES	3,384	6	0.2%	3,862	1	0.0%	0.2%
INDIAN RIVER	17,613	931	5.3%	14,320	517	3.6%	1.7%
JACKSON	7,382	46	0.6%	8,025	68	0.8%	-0.2%
JEFFERSON	1,220	25	2.0%	2,027	4	0.2%	1.9%
LAFAYETTE	1,074	45	4.2%	1,073	31	2.9%	1.3%
LAKE	39,623	2,588	6.5%	27,123	608	2.2%	4.3%
LEE	78,984	8,181	10.4%	53,786	4,221	7.8%	2.5%
LEON	32,404	342	1.1%	31,424	239	0.8%	0.3%
LEVY	6,260	119	1.9%	6,100	54	0.9%	1.0%
LIBERTY	1,477		0.0%	1,298	8	0.6%	-0.6%
MADISON	2,935	10	0.3%	3,556	11	0.3%	0.0%
MANATEE	42,315	3,798	9.0%	33,712	1,601	4.7%	4.2%
MARION	42,569	1,964	4.6%	37,201	681	1.8%	2.8%
MARTIN	18,245	2,046	11.2%	15,443	941	6.1%	5.1%
MONROE	8,377	458	5.5%	9,507	641	6.7%	-1.3%
NASSAU	10,940	79	0.7%	10,293	12	0.1%	0.6%
OKALOOSA	30,277	598	2.0%	30,313	95	0.3%	1.7%
OKEECHOBEE	7,288	461	6.3%	6,636	293	4.4%	1.9%
ORANGE	175,238	34,454	19.7%	133,958	9,294	6.9%	12.7%
OSCEOLA	51,888	9,923	19.1%	28,729	3,287	11.4%	7.7%
PALM BEACH	171,683	18,853	11.0%	142,712	17,170	12.0%	-1.0%
PASCO	64,680	2,239	3.5%	44,770	1,181	2.6%	0.8%
PINELLAS	110,006	3,600	3.3%	109,361	1,987	1.8%	1.5%
POLK	92,809	7,103	7.7%	76,495	2,205	2.9%	4.8%
PUTNAM	12,103	486	4.0%	13,045	436	3.3%	0.7%
ST. JOHNS	26,971	144	0.5%	17,402	92	0.5%	0.0%
ST. LUCIE	38,799	2,566	6.6%	28,288	1,437	5.1%	1.5%
SANTA ROSA	25,393	139	0.5%	21,563	45	0.2%	0.3%
SARASOTA	42,190	2,131	5.1%	33,136	961	2.9%	2.2%
SEMINOLE	66,344	2,488	3.8%	56,927	1,281	2.3%	1.5%
SUMTER	7,434	376	5.1%	5,856	161	2.7%	2.3%
SUWANNEE	5,981	143	2.4%	5,901	48	0.8%	1.6%
TAYLOR	3,420	3	0.1%	3,834	7	0.2%	-0.1%
UNION	2,265	3	0.1%	2,314	4	0.2%	0.0%
VOLUSIA	65,867	2,834	4.3%	59,310	1,395	2.4%	2.0%
WAKULLA	5,050	6	0.1%	4,651	5	0.1%	0.0%
WALTON	6,699	136	2.0%	5,724	38	0.7%	1.4%
WASHINGTON	3,557		0.0%	3,344	3	0.1%	-0.1%
SUBTOTAL (1-67)	2,656,720	231,564	8.7%	2,292,244	146,329	6.4%	2.3%
STATE TOTAL	2,663,637	231,652	8.7%	2,294,160	146,368	6.4%	2.3%

*State totals include the special districts: Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, Dozier/Okeechobee, Florida Atlantic University Lab School, Florida State University Lab School, Florida A & M University Lab School, and University of Florida Lab School.

Source: Florida Department of Education, Student Demographic Information records compiled during fall reporting surveys for years shown. Statistics for 2006-07 are current as of 8/1/07.

Table 2: Number and Percentage of English Language Learners, by State (2005-06)

STATE OR JURISDICTION	NUMBER	PERCENT
ALABAMA	16,550	2.2%
ALASKA	20,743	15.6%
ARIZONA	174,856	16.0%
ARKANSAS	20,709	4.4%
CALIFORNIA	1,571,463	25.1%
COLORADO	99,797	12.8%
CONNECTICUT	29,789	5.2%
DELAWARE	5,919	4.9%
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	5,001	7.0%
FLORIDA	221,705	8.3%
GEORGIA	86,615	5.4%
HAWAII	18,106	9.9%
IDAHO	18,184	6.9%
ILLINOIS		0.0%
INDIANA	56,510	5.5%
IOWA	15,156	3.1%
KANSAS	24,671	5.5%
KENTUCKY	10,138	1.5%
LOUISIANA	12,006	1.8%
MAINE	3,353	1.7%
MARYLAND	31,416	3.7%
MASSACHUSETTS	51,618	5.3%
MICHIGAN	65,419	3.8%
MINNESOTA	57,831	6.9%
MISSISSIPPI	2,859	0.6%
MISSOURI	18,745	2.0%
MONTANA	6,711	4.6%
NEBRASKA	17,449	6.1%
NEVADA	63,856	15.5%
NEW HAMPSHIRE		0.0%
NEW JERSEY	50,515	3.8%
NEW MEXICO	62,682	19.2%
NEW YORK	194,123	7.2%
NORTH CAROLINA	73,634	5.2%
NORTH DAKOTA		0.0%
OHIO	29,804	1.6%
OKLAHOMA	47,381	7.5%
OREGON	64,676	12.1%
PENNSYLVANIA		0.0%
RHODE ISLAND	7,468	4.9%
SOUTH CAROLINA	14,388	2.1%
SOUTH DAKOTA	5,110	4.2%
TENNESSEE		0.0%
TEXAS	711,737	15.7%
UTAH	49,973	9.8%
VERMONT	1,775	1.8%
VIRGINIA	72,420	6.0%
WASHINGTON	75,103	7.3%
WEST VIRGINIA	1,944	0.7%
WISCONSIN	30,130	3.4%
WYOMING	3,077	3.6%
REPORTING STATES	4,223,115	8.7%

Source: NCES, Common Core of Data. <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/bat/>.