English Learners are a big part of California’s future

- 1.4 million students statewide and 22% of K-12 students
- English Learner status is meant to be temporary
  - Services and supports until English proficiency and academic English improve sufficiently
- English Learner (EL) students have lower academic performance than most other student groups
  - Reclassified students do very well
Outline

- Basic demographics of English Learners
- English Learners are not a static group
- Academic outcomes
Number and percentages of ELs declining somewhat
Most of the state’s ELs speak Spanish at home

- Spanish: 84%
- Vietnamese: 1%
- Mandarin: 1%
- Filipino: 1%
- Arabic: 1%
- Cantonese: 2%
- Other: 9%
English Learners are in all parts of the state
Outline

- Basic demographics of ELs
- ELs are not a static group
- Academic outcomes
New ELs arrive in every grade

Source: CDE DataQuest, shares of ELs who took Initial CEDLT in 2015-16 with low score
ELs “leave” (are reclassified) in every grade
But many stay in EL services for more than 6 years
Districts provide diverse experiences for ELs

- Demographics varies
  - Mix of languages
  - Mix of 1st vs. 2nd generation ELs
  - Poverty
- How ELs are taught (within bounds)
  - Bilingual
  - Structured English Immersion
  - English Language Mainstream
- Reclassification (state guidance with district flexibility)
  - Most districts use more rigorous standards
- How state funding for ELs is spent
Outline

- Basic demographics of ELs
- ELs are not a static group and have diverse experiences
- Academic outcomes
Reclassified ELs do quite well – 4th grade standardized tests

4th Grade SBAC Achievement Levels, RFEP and ELs 2014-15

- Reclass English: 24% Exceeded, 32% Met, 32% Nearly Met, 9% Not Met
- Reclass Math: 17% Exceeded, 32% Met, 32% Nearly Met, 9% Not Met
- EL English: 9% Exceeded, 40% Met, 30% Nearly Met, 20% Not Met
- EL Math: 9% Exceeded, 20% Met, 30% Nearly Met, 50% Not Met
Reclassified ELs do quite well – 11th grade standardized tests

11th Grade SBAC Achievement Levels, RFEP and ELs 2014-15

- Exceeded
- Met
- Nearly Met
- Not Met

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Graduation rates are low for ELs

Graduation Rates, class of 2014-15

- EL
- Economically Disadvantaged
- All Students

Cohort Graduation Rate
Policies aim to get more students reclassified more quickly

- New programs and focus
  - Bilingual education
  - Newcomer programs
  - Focus on long term ELs (6+ years in California schools)

- More resources
  - Local Control Funding Formula sends $$ to districts based on
    - Number of ELs
    - Percentage of ELs

- Statewide reclassification standards
Summary

- Close to one quarter of our school children
  - In most districts in the state
- Urgency to increasing success for EL students
- Many recent changes
  - Increases in potential resources (LCFF)
  - New standards (Common Core and English Learner)
  - Flexibility with Prop 58
- Challenges and opportunities with recent policy changes
Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.