

Supporting California's English Learners

Leni Wolf Senior Research & Policy Analyst The Education Trust—West



Who are California's K-12 English learners?

In K-12, English learners are students who engage in the arduous task of simultaneously mastering a second language and academic content.

English learners are primarily identified through the Home Language Survey when they first enroll in school.

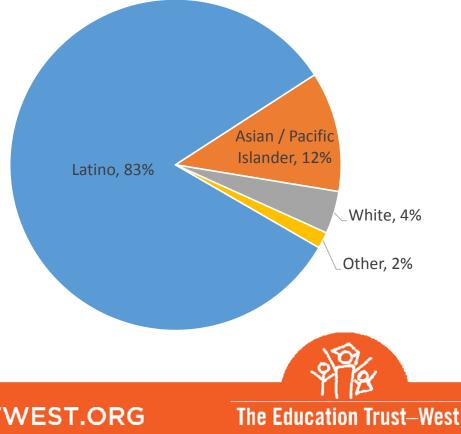
■ ■ @EDTRUSTWEST EDTRUSTWEST.ORG

Who are California's K-12 English learners?

1 in 5 students in K-12 are English learners.

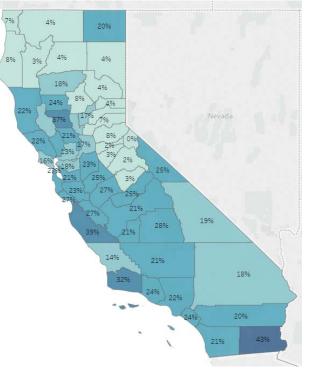
That's **1.3 million** students.

85 percent of ELs are low income.



Source: California Department of Education, 2016-17 (accessed March 2018).

K-12 English learners live across the state...



View your county's data at http://tabsoft.co/2Br1YjH

Source: California Department of Education, 2016-17 (accessed January 2018).



... and speak languages from all over the world

Kannada Swedish Zapoteco Punjabi Mien Portuguese Hungarian Tigrinya Ukrainian Marshallese Hebrew Khmer Kurdish Mandarin Rumanian Italian Vietnamese Telugu Mixteco Samoan Gujarati Urdu Albanian Cebuano Farsi German Turkish Ilocano Khmu French Chaldean Uzbek Chaozhou Hmona Korean Bulgarian Lao Filipino Somali Amharic Serbo-Croatian Taiwanese Polish Russian Tongan Lahu Tamil Cantonese Japanese Dutch Other Armenian Bengali Greek Arabic Burmese Thai Pashto Marathi Chamorro Kikuyu Kashmiri Assyrian Indonesian Toishanese

Source: California Department of Education, 2016-17 (accessed March 2018).



What unique challenges do English learners face?

- Ill-equipped teachers
- Insufficient access to rigorous academics
- Social, emotional, and academic isolation
- Inconsistent reclassification policies
- Intersectionality: additional challenges if also a student of color, low-income, immigrant, and/or undocumented/ mixed-status

Source: The Education Trust—West, The Majority Report, 2017; The Education—Trust West, The Language of Reform, 2014.



Without adequate support, English learners are challenged to achieve high academic outcomes

I ■ @EDTRUSTWEST EDTRUSTWEST.ORG

Here's what average math performance looks like for English-only students...



View your county's data at http://tabsoft.co/2DFii5F

Source: California Department of Education, 2017 (accessed January 2018).



... and here's what it looks like for English learners



View your county's data at http://tabsoft.co/2Br1YjH

Source: California Department of Education, 2017 (accessed January 2018).



English learners continue to struggle through high school

1 in 4 English learners does not graduate with his or her high school class

9 in 10 English learners do not complete the A-G requirements—the course sequence required to be eligible for the UC and CSU systems

Source: California Department of Education, 2009-10 to 2015-16 (accessed March 2018).



What can we do to support English learners?

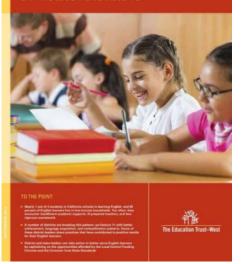
- Recognize multilingualism as an asset
- Provide both designated and integrated English language instruction
- Provide English learners access to A-G approved curricula
- Establish and expand bilingual education
- Support the bilingual teacher pipeline
- Recognize and address intersectional needs
- Seize policy opportunities (Prop 58, English Learner Roadmap)

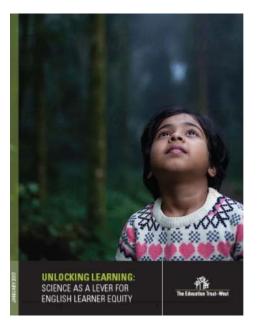
Source: The Education Trust—West, *The Majority Report*, 2017.

■ ■ @EDTRUSTWEST EDTRUSTWEST.ORG

Further resources

THE LANGUAGE OF REFORM: ENGLISH LEARNERS IN CALIFORNIA'S SHIFTING EDUCATION LANDSCAPE







http://www.edtrustwest.org



Thank you! Leni Wolf lwolf@edtrustwest.org

■ ■ @EDTRUSTWEST EDTRUSTWEST.ORG