Supporting California’s English Learners

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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.
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.

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

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

... and speak languages from all over the world

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

Without adequate support, English learners are challenged to achieve high academic outcomes.
Here’s what average math performance looks like for English-only students...


View your county’s data at http://tabsoft.co/2DFii5F
... and here’s what it looks like for English learners


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

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)

Further resources

http://www.edtrustwest.org
Thank you!

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