WHO ARE ENGLISH LEARNERS IN DELAWARE’S SCHOOLS?

English Learners (ELs) are a diverse group of students representing numerous languages, cultures, ethnicities, nationalities, and social, economic, and educational backgrounds.

- 75% Native-born Americans
- 25% Immigrants
- 50% Also low-income
- 14% ELs also classified as special education
- 10% “Long Term ELs”, a student identified as an EL for over 6 years.
- 25% Middle school ELs also classified as special education
- 10% “Long Term ELs”
- 50% Also low-income
- 14% ELs also classified as special education

There are > 10,000 EL students enrolled statewide

8% of the total student population

Home Language
- There are > 10,000 EL students enrolled statewide
- 75% Spanish
- 16% Other
- Haitian Creole 3%
- Creole 2%
- Chinese 2%
- Other

% of Total ELs by School Grade Level
- 78% Elementary (K-5)
- 10% Middle School (6-8)
- 12% High School (9-12)

There are many identical terms used to formally describe this group of students.

Delaware education regulations say:
“English learners are students with limited English proficiency who, because of foreign birth or ancestry, speak a language other than English. ELs either comprehend, speak, read, or write little or no English” when they enroll in public school.

Source: This is a snapshot of data taken at the end of the 2015-2016 school year of kindergarten – 12th grade public school English learner students provided by the Delaware Department of Education from the most recent EL Annual Report.
ELs are the fastest growing student population. They are enrolled in every district and charter in the state.

**New Castle County**
- 9% of total county student enrollment
- Most enrolled: 5,721 (56%) of all ELs statewide
- Red Clay enrolls the most ELs in the state

**Kent County**
- 4% of total county student enrollment
- 1,065 ELs enrolled

**Sussex County**
- Highest concentration: 11% of total county student enrollment
- 2,910 ELs enrolled
- Fast growing
- Indian River (17%) and Seaford (14%) enroll the highest concentrations of ELs in the state

**Map legend:** Number of ELs and ELs as % of total 2015-16 district student enrollment
- 0-4%
- 5-8%
- 9-12%
- 13-15%
- 16% and above

**State of Delaware**
- 428% Over 20 Years
- From 2015 to 2016, ELs grew 15%, while the entire Delaware student population only grew 1%

**Public School Choice:**
ELs are less likely to elect to attend a charter or vo-tech school

**Charter**
- 4% of ELs attend charter schools compared to 8% of all students.
- La Academia Antonia Alonso (117 EL students) and Las Americas Aspira Academy (190 EL students) serve the most ELs (about 25% of the schools’ enrollment)

**Vo-tech**
- 4% of all high school ELs (54 students) attend vo-tech schools compared to 5% of all high school students

**Note:** Other choice options (within district or cross-district) not captured

**Visit** [http://bit.ly/ELsInDE](http://bit.ly/ELsInDE) for more information on ELs in Delaware.