



Educating English Language Learners in Washington State, 2008–09

Report to Legislature



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Section 4: Languages Spoken

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SPEAKING VARIOUS LANGUAGES

Approximately 17 percent of all Washington ELLs spoke Korean, Russian, Somali, Tagalog, Ukrainian, or Vietnamese (Figure 4-2). According to data reported, there was a decline in the number of students reported in 3 of these 7 major language groups.

Figure 4-2: One-Year Change in Enrollment by Major Language Group

Language	2007-2008	2008-2009	% of Change	Language	2007-2008	2008-2009	% of Change
Spanish	64,567	65,584	1.6%	Hindi	293	321	9.6%
Russian	4,946	4,574	-7.5%	Tigrinya	262	275	5.0%
Vietnamese	3,493	3,637	4.1%	Swahili	236	236	0.0%
Ukrainian	2,808	2,535	-9.7%	Turkish	223	231	3.6%
Somali	2,086	2,265	8.6%	Farsi	217	217	0.0%
Korean	1,856	1,835	-1.1%	Thai	221	212	-4.1%
Tagalog	1,313	1,317	0.3%	Oromo	209	206	-1.4%
Punjabi	935	976	4.4%	Hmong	224	205	-8.5%
Cambodian	930	890	-4.3%	Burmese	65	187	187.7%
Arabic	787	855	8.6%	Urdu	157	187	19.1%
Chinese-Cantonese	880	793	-9.9%	Ilokano	156	176	12.8%
Samoan	661	665	0.6%	Bosnian	176	172	-2.3%
Chinese-Mandarin	546	541	-0.9%	German	127	165	29.9%
Japanese	537	535	-0.4%	Nepali	39	165	323.1%
Marshallese	423	505	19.4%	Moldavian	189	164	-13.2%
Chinese-Unspecified	416	493	18.5%	Pilipino	144	155	7.6%
Amharic	457	490	7.2%	Toishanese	153	155	1.3%
French	222	468	110.8%	Telugu	107	138	29.0%
Rumanian	383	383	0.0%	Portugese	145	135	-6.9%
Mixteco	327	378	15.6%	Karen	62	120	93.5%
Lao	346	339	-2.0%	Makah	77	105	36.4%

Appendix B provides more information on the number of primary languages in the districts and the number of students for each of the languages.

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Some districts provided instruction to ELLs from many different language backgrounds. In the 2008–09 school year, 46 districts served students from 20 or more language groups (Figure 4.3). Most of these districts are located in Western Washington along the I-5/I-405 corridor.

Figure 4-3: Districts with 20 or More Languages (School Year 2008–09)

District	ELL Enrollment	Languages	District	ELL Enrollment	Languages
Kent	4,521	102	Marysville	899	33
Seattle	6,033	85	Tahoma	180	31
Highline	3,974	84	North Thurston	454	30
Federal Way	3,136	81	Snohomish	262	29
Edmonds	1,965	79	Bethel	319	29
Bellevue	1,907	77	Central Kitsap	236	29
Lake Washington	1,439	72	Richland	289	27
Renton	2,410	72	Kennewick	1,929	27
Mukilteo	2,750	70	Mead	161	25
Evergreen (Clark)	2,380	64	Central Valley	230	24
Everett	2,048	60	Fife	391	23
Northshore	1,047	59	Steilacoom	86	23
Tacoma	2,327	56	Franklin Pierce	574	22
Tukwila	1,163	56	Lake Stevens	241	22
Issaquah	690	53	Longview	373	22
Shoreline	670	52	Snoqualmie Valley	102	22
Spokane	1,158	51	Pasco	5,839	21
Vancouver	2,164	49	Pullman	81	21
Clover Park	1,337	42	Camas	110	20
Auburn	1,796	39	Olympia	158	20
Battle Ground	753	38	University Place	138	20
Puyallup	643	38	Bremerton	144	20
Bellingham	691	33	North Kitsap	232	20

In contrast, all or nearly all ELLs in other districts spoke Spanish. In 62 districts, 95 percent or more of the enrolled ELLs identified Spanish as their primary language (Figure 4.4). Twenty-seven districts served ELLs from only one primary non-English language group.

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Figure 4-4: At Least 95 Percent Spanish Speaking ELLs (School Year 2008–09)

District	Spanish-Speaking	Total ELL Students	Percent Spanish Speaking	District	Spanish-Speaking	Total ELL Students	Percent Spanish Speaking
Aberdeen	290	302	96.0%	Okanogan	89	89	100.0%
Brewster	382	383	99.7%	Omak	85	88	96.6%
Bridgeport	414	415	99.8%	Onalaska	17	17	100.0%
Cascade	163	166	98.2%	Orondo	119	119	100.0%
Cashmere	206	208	99.0%	Oroville	84	84	100.0%
Cle Elum-Roslyn	3	3	100.0%	Palisades	23	23	100.0%
College Place	171	174	98.3%	Pasco	5,619	5,843	96.2%
Columbia (Walla)	78	79	98.7%	Paterson	36	36	100.0%
East Valley (Yak)	232	238	97.5%	Prescott	76	76	100.0%
Eastmont	924	939	98.4%	Prosser	568	579	98.1%
Easton	9	9	100.0%	Quincy	983	991	99.2%
Entiat	40	40	100.0%	Roosevelt	13	13	100.0%
Enumclaw	145	150	96.7%	Royal	656	659	99.5%
Goldendale	46	47	97.9%	San Juan	28	28	100.0%
Grandview	1,097	1,098	99.9%	Selah	214	216	99.1%
Granger	623	623	100.0%	Shelton	301	313	96.2%
Highland	250	250	100.0%	Sunnyside	1,763	1,771	99.5%
Hoquiam	45	45	100.0%	Toledo	19	20	95.0%
Kiona Benton	231	234	98.7%	Tonasket	103	104	99.0%
Kittitas	33	33	100.0%	Toppenish	1,359	1,367	99.4%
Lake Chelan	341	341	100.0%	Touchet	24	24	100.0%
Lake Quinault	40	40	100.0%	Union Gap	145	146	99.3%
Mabton	421	421	100.0%	Wahluke	1,379	1,379	100.0%
Mansfield	1	1	100.0%	Walla Walla	797	824	96.7%
Manson	234	234	100.0%	Wapato	867	878	98.7%
Montesano	19	20	95.0%	Warden	347	349	99.4%
Mossyrock	44	45	97.8%	Waterville	23	24	95.8%
Mount Adams	133	133	100.0%	Wenatchee	1,597	1,627	98.2%
Naches	17	17	100.0%	White Salmon	211	214	98.6%
Naches Valley	61	61	100.0%	Yakima	4,768	4,801	99.3%
North Franklin	804	812	99.0%	Zillah	165	167	98.8%

The percent of ELL students whose primary language is Spanish appears to have stabilized at about two-thirds of all ELL students (Figure 4-5).

Figure 4-5: Spanish-Speaking ELL Students by School Year (distinct count)

School Year	Total ELL Count	Total Spanish Language Count	Percent of Spanish ELL
2003-2004	74,955	48,773	65.1%
2004-2005	82,827	54,136	65.4%
2005-2006	85,307	56,392	66.1%
2006-2007	83,400	55,914	67.0%
2007-2008	88,046	59,141	67.2%
2008-2009	90,133	60,251	66.8%

Appendix A: Languages Spoken

APPENDIX A

Total Languages Spoken

Table A-1: Languages Spoken by ELL Students (alphabetical by language)

Students	Language	Students	Language	Students	Language	Students	Language
2	Acholi	44	Ethiopic	1,777	Korean	2	Quechua
13	Afrikaans	6	Ewe	43	Kosraean	1	Romansch
15	Agua cateco	2	Fallani	3	Kpelle	377	Rumanian
5	Akan	208	Farsi	2	Krahn	4,351	Russian
59	Albanian	13	Fijian	11	Krio	4	Rwanda
468	Amharic	26	Finnish	1	Kru	3	Sahaptian
800	Arabic	3	Flemish	47	Kurdish	13	Salish
39	Armenian	1	Fra Fra	320	Lao	616	Samoan
4	Azerbaijani	440	French	3	Latvian	2	Sanskrit
3	Balinese	3	Fula	21	Liberian	36	Serbo-Croatian
1	Bambara	1	Fulfulde	9	Lingala	3	Shona
4	Bangala	4	Ga	10	Lithuanian	4	Sindhi
29	Bantu	1	Ge-Kayapo	10	Luganda	8	Sinhalese
9	Bassa	7	Georgian	4	Luo	2	Slovak
8	Bemba	160	German	105	Makah	3	Slovenian
36	Bengali	64	Greek, Modern	10	Makua	1	Sogdian
1	Berber	4	Guarani	12	Malay	2,074	Somali
3	Bikol	37	Gujarati	40	Malayalam	15	Soninke
5	Bisaya	28	Haitian Creole	9	Mam	60,251	Spanish
164	Bosnian	7	Hausa	1	Manchu	5	Stoney
68	Bulgarian	16	Hawaiian	44	Mandingo	11	Sudanese-Arabic
168	Burmese	63	Hebrew, Modern	31	Marathi	1	Susu
5	Byelorussian	3	Herero	3	Marquesan	221	Swahili
5	Cakchiquel	2	Hiligaynon	469	Marshallese	30	Swedish
854	Cambodian	306	Hindi	66	Mien	1,276	Tagalog
67	Carolinina	201	Hmong	336	Mixteco	85	Tamil
13	Cebuano	1	Hoh	150	Moldavian	26	Tarasco
5	Chagatai	21	Hungarian	54	Mongolian	134	Telugu
2	Chalchiteco	10	Ibo	2	Mordvin	2	Temne
16	Cham	3	Icelandic (Old)	1	Mundu	206	Thai
38	Chamorro	9	Igbo	1	Nanai	14	Tibetan
4	Chao	171	Ilokano	5	Navajo	262	Tigrinya
1	Chewa	85	Indonesian	157	Nepali	142	Toishanese
1	Chin	3	Inuktitut	1	Nez Perce	79	Tongan
777	Chinese-Cantonese	2	Irish	3	Nigerian	22	Trukese
2	Chinese-Fukienese	73	Italian	1	Niuean	2	Turkic
520	Chinese-Mandarin	5	Jamaican	17	Norwegian	225	Turkish
28	Chinese-Taiwanese	524	Japanese	21	Nuer	45	Twi
483	Chinese-Unspecified	3	Javanese	2	Nyanja	2,410	Ukrainian
7	Chungki	17	Kanjobal	190	Oromo	180	Urdu
88	Chuuk	31	Kannada	2	Pahlavi	5	Uzbek
3	Cornish	119	Karen	20	Palau	3,509	Vietnamese
41	Creole	1	Kashmiri	20	Pashto	11	Visayan
3	Croatian	13	Khalkha	26	Persian	33	Wolof
11	Czech	54	Khmer	145	Pilipino	7	Yakima
37	Danish	19	Kikuya	18	Pohnpeian	1	Yakut
8	Dari	2	Kinyarwanda	48	Polish	7	Yap
4	Dinka	2	Kirgiz	127	Portugese	8	Yoruba
40	Dutch	7	Kirundi	4	Pulau-Guai	1	Zezeru
5	Egyptian-Arabic	3	Kishinai	938	Punjabi		
2	Estonian	1	Kmhmu	6	Pushtu	252	Unknown