



2022-2023 ELL Demographics: At-a-Glance

During the 2022-2023 school year, there were approximately 43% (~344,000) of students enrolled in New York City (NYC) public schools with a primary home language other than English.¹ Approximately 17% (~134,000) of students enrolled in NYC public schools identified as English Language Learners (ELL).² An ELL is a student whose primary home language is not English and has scored below a cut score on the New York State Identification Test for ELLs (NYSITELL). These students continue to be ELLs until they reach proficiency on the NYSESLAT or a combination of NYSESLAT scores and ELA/ELA Regents scores. Starting the 2019-2020 school year, NYSED and the NYC DOE refer to English Language Learners (ELLs) as multilingual learners/English Language Learners (MLs/ELLs) except in instances referring to state and federal policy. Approximately 42% of students identified as ELLs were born in the United States.³

Quick Links

2022-2023 ELL Enrollment Citywide	1
2022-2023 ELL Enrollment by Grade Level Citywide	
2022-2023 Top 10 Home Languages for ELLs Citywide	
2022-2023 ELL Programs and Services	
2022-2023 ELL Subgroups	
2022 2023 LLL 3006100p3	•••

2022-2023 ELL Enrollment Citywide

During school year 2022-2023, 160,256 ELLs were enrolled in NYC public schools at some point in the year.

Borough	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
Bronx	34,562	21.57%
Brooklyn	45,443	28.36%
Manhattan	19,041	11.88%
Queens	55,432	34.59%
Staten Island	5,778	3.61%
Total	160,256	100.00%

¹ Figures are based on the 2022-23 Audited Register as of Fall 2022, which includes only grades K – 12, excludes charter schools, and excludes students in high school equivalency programs.

² See footnote 1.

³ Henceforth, figures are based on 2022-23 Final ELL Dataset (BESIS data). The difference in ELL numbers between the NYC DOE's annual ELL survey and the Audited Register is because the latter is a snapshot in time, while the former looks at all ELLs who came in and out of the NYC DOE school system during the entire school year.





2022-2023 ELL Enrollment by Grade Level Citywide

During the 2022-2023 school year, slightly more than half (53.42%) of all ELLs in NYC public schools were in elementary school grades (85,616).

Grade Level	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
K	15,870	9.90%
1	15,769	9.84%
2	15,339	9.57%
3	14,016	8.75%
4	12,431	7.76%
5	12,191	7.61%
6	11,377	7.10%
7	10,344	6.45%
8	9,825	6.13%
9	14,731	9.19%
10	11,991	7.48%
11	8,632	5.39%
12	7,740	4.83%
Total	160,256	100.00%





2022-2023 Top 10 Home Languages for ELLs Citywide

During the 2022-2023 school year, ELLs in NYC public schools communicated in 150 languages other than English. Over 66% of ELLs are Spanish speakers, followed by students who speak Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Bengali, Urdu, Haitian Creole, Uzbek, French, and Ukrainian.

Rank	Home Language	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
1	Spanish	106,069	66.19%
2	Chinese	15,958	9.96%
3	Arabic	7,653	4.78%
4	Russian	6,231	3.89%
5	Bengali	5,380	3.36%
6	Urdu	2,050	1.28%
7	Haitian Creole	2,006	1.25%
8	Uzbek	1,742	1.09%
9	French	1,481	0.92%
10	Ukrainian	1,389	0.87%
No Rank	Other (140)	10,297	6.43%
Total	All Home Languages	160,256	100.00%





2022-2023 ELL Programs and Services

During the 2022-2023 school year, a considerable portion of ELLs were served in Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs at 10.20%, while 8.73% of ELLs were served in Dual Language (DL) bilingual education programs. These programs include English as a New Language (ENL) instruction. Most ELLs were served in ENL only programs (78.94%).

Program	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
English as a New Language Only	126,511	78.94%
Transitional Bilingual Education	16,339	10.20%
Dual Language Bilingual Education	13,990	8.73%
Not Served/Not Reported	3,416	2.13%
Total	160,256	100.00%

2022-2023 ELL Subgroups

ELL Subgroups are defined by the years of ELL service a student has received:

Newcomer: 0 to 3 yearsDeveloping: 4 to 6 yearsLong-term: 7 or more years

During the 2022-2023 school year, the largest proportion of ELLs in NYC public schools is represented in the Newcomer category at 60.41% (96,814) because this includes newly identified ELLs who have not yet received any ELL services. Newcomers account for more than both Developing (23.45% or 37,573) and Long-term (16.14% or 25,869) categories combined.

Subgroup	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
Newcomer	96,814	60.41%
Developing	37,573	23.45%
Long-term	25,869	16.14%
Total	160,256	100.00%