

2023-2024 ELL Demographics: At-a-Glance

During the 2023-2024 school year, there were approximately 44% (~356,000) of students enrolled in New York City (NYC) public schools with a primary home language other than English.¹ Approximately 18% (~148,500) 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 35% of students identified as ELLs were born in the United States.³

Quick Links

Quick Links.....	1
2023-2024 ELL Enrollment Citywide	1
2023-2024 ELL Enrollment by Grade Level Citywide	2
2023-2024 Top 10 Home Languages for ELLs Citywide	3
2023-2024 ELL Programs and Services.....	4
2023-2024 ELL Subgroups	4

2023-2024 ELL Enrollment Citywide

During school year 2023-2024, 174,014 ELLs were enrolled in NYC public schools at some point in the year.

Borough	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
Bronx	34,800	20.00%
Brooklyn	49,776	28.60%
Manhattan	22,479	12.92%
Queens	60,947	35.02%
Staten Island	6,012	3.45%
Total	174,014	100.00%

¹ Figures are based on the 2023-24 Audited Register as of Fall 2023, 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 2023-24 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.

2023-2024 ELL Enrollment by Grade Level Citywide

During the 2023-2024 school year, slightly more than half (52.82%) of all ELLs in NYC public schools were in elementary school grades (91,917).

Grade Level	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
K	16,576	9.53%
1	16,388	9.42%
2	17,029	9.79%
3	15,163	8.71%
4	14,145	8.13%
5	12,616	7.25%
6	12,039	6.92%
7	11,360	6.53%
8	11,003	6.32%
9	17,473	10.04%
10	13,470	7.74%
11	9,468	5.44%
12	7,284	4.19%
Total	174,014	100.00%

2023-2024 Top 10 Home Languages for ELLs Citywide

During the 2023-2024 school year, ELLs in NYC public schools communicated in 156 languages other than English. Over 67% of ELLs are Spanish speakers, followed by students who speak Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Bengali, Haitian Creole, French, Uzbek, Urdu, and Ukrainian.

Rank	Home Language	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
1	Spanish	117,321	67.42%
2	Chinese	15,863	9.12%
3	Arabic	7,172	4.12%
4	Russian	6,723	3.86%
5	Bengali	5,753	3.31%
6	Haitian Creole	3,053	1.75%
7	French	2,051	1.18%
8	Uzbek	1,976	1.14%
9	Urdu	1,853	1.06%
10	Ukrainian	1,495	0.86%
No Rank	Other (146)	10,754	6.18%
Total	All Home Languages	174,014	100.00%

2023-2024 ELL Programs and Services

During the 2023-2024 school year, a considerable portion of ELLs were served in Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs at 10.48%, while 8.79% 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 (78.99%).

Program	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
English as a New Language Only	137,455	78.99%
Transitional Bilingual Education	18,229	10.48%
Dual Language Bilingual Education	15,303	8.79%
Not Served/Not Reported	3,027	1.74%
Total	174,014	100.00%

2023-2024 ELL Subgroups

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

- Newcomer: 0 to 3 years
- Developing: 4 to 6 years
- Long-term: 7 or more years

During the 2023-2024 school year, the largest proportion of ELLs in NYC public schools is represented in the Newcomer category at 69.73% (121,336) because this includes newly identified ELLs who have not yet received any ELL services. Newcomers account for more than both Developing (17.19% or 29,910) and Long-term (13.08% or 22,768) categories combined.

Subgroup	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
Newcomer	121,336	69.73%
Developing	29,910	17.19%
Long-term	22,768	13.08%
Total	174,014	100.00%