

2024-2025 ELL Demographics: At-a-Glance

During the 2024-2025 school year, there were approximately 44% (~358,000) of students enrolled in New York City (NYC) public schools with a primary home language other than English.¹ Approximately 19% (~152,500) 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 in 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 34% of students identified as ELLs were born in the United States.³

Quick Links

2024-2025 ELL Enrollment Citywide	1
2024-2025 ELL Enrollment by Grade Level Citywide	2
2024-2025 Top 10 Home Languages for ELLs Citywide	3
2024-2025 ELL Programs and Services.....	4
2024-2025 ELL Subgroups	4

2024-2025 ELL Enrollment Citywide

During school year 2024-2025, 168,061 ELLs were enrolled in NYC public schools at some point in the year.

Borough	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
Bronx	34,104	20.29%
Brooklyn	48,020	28.57%
Manhattan	20,628	12.27%
Queens	59,367	35.32%
Staten Island	5,942	3.54%
Total	168,061	100.00%

¹ Figures are based on the 2024-25 Audited Register as of Fall 2024, 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 2024-25 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.



Multilingual Learners

2024-2025 ELL Enrollment by Grade Level Citywide

During the 2024-2025 school year, slightly more than half (51.62%) of all ELLs in NYC public schools were in elementary school grades (86,752).

Grade Level	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
K	15,804	9.40%
1	14,981	8.91%
2	14,864	8.84%
3	15,086	8.98%
4	13,620	8.10%
5	12,397	7.38%
6	11,146	6.63%
7	10,831	6.44%
8	10,505	6.25%
9	16,327	9.71%
10	14,128	8.41%
11	10,060	5.99%
12	8,312	4.95%
Total	168,061	100.00%

2024-2025 Top 10 Home Languages for ELLs Citywide

During the 2024-2025 school year, ELLs in NYC public schools communicated in 156 languages other than English. Over 66% of ELLs are Spanish speakers, followed by students who speak Chinese, Arabic, Bengali, Russian, Haitian Creole, French, Urdu, Uzbek, and Ukrainian.

Rank	Home Language	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
1	Spanish	111,203	66.17%
2	Chinese	16,246	9.67%
3	Arabic	7,202	4.29%
4	Bengali	6,217	3.70%
5	Russian	5,757	3.43%
6	Haitian Creole	3,201	1.90%
7	French	2,227	1.33%
8	Urdu	2,092	1.24%
9	Uzbek	1,863	1.11%
10	Ukrainian	1,377	0.82%
No Rank	Other (146)	10,676	6.35%
Total	All Home Languages	168,061	100.00%

2024-2025 ELL Programs and Services

During the 2024-2025 school year, a considerable portion of ELLs were served in Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs at 10.33%, while 8.39% 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 (79.70%).

Program	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
English as a New Language Only	133,940	79.70%
Transitional Bilingual Education	17,363	10.33%
Dual Language Bilingual Education	14,106	8.39%
Not Served/Not Reported	2,652	1.58%
Total	168,061	100.00%

2024-2025 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 2024-2025 school year, the largest proportion of ELLs in NYC public schools is represented in the Newcomer category at 67.76% (113,885) because this includes newly identified ELLs who have not yet received any ELL services. Newcomers account for more than both Developing (19.62% or 32,970) and Long-term (12.62% or 21,206) categories combined.

Subgroup	ELLs (Number)	ELLs (Percent)
Newcomer	113,885	67.76%
Developing	32,970	19.62%
Long-term	21,206	12.62%
Total	168,061	100.00%