



RESEARCH BRIEF

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2012-2013 ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS' IN-GRADE RETENTION RATES ANALYSIS

This brief examines student retention rates disaggregated by ESOL/ELL classification status for each of the grade levels. ESOL levels shown in Table 1 below are those as of June 2013, before the new ESOL levels based on the CELLA results were determined. The retention rates are computed based on the student enrollment as of the end of the 2012-2013 school.

The results show that, in most cases, greater percentages of students classified as ELL were retained than those who were classified as formerly ELL or non-ELL. Overall, 2,821 ELL students were retained across grade levels K-11 in 2012-2013, which constituted a 4.1% retention rate. This retention rate was higher than the corresponding 2011-2012 rate of 3.4%. The 2012-2013 retention rate of formerly ELL students was 1.0% and that of non-ELL students was 2.3%.

It is important to note that beginning in the 2002-03 school year, the revised Florida School Code required 3rd grade students to demonstrate reading proficiency by scoring at Level 2 or higher on the reading portion of the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). Students scoring at Level 1 must be retained in 3rd grade for another year, unless exempted from mandatory retention for special circumstances. One of these special circumstances pertains to ELL students. If a student has been participating in the ESOL program for less than 2 years, he/she may be promoted to 4th grade with "good cause."

The percentages of ELL students retained in the third grade were high; they exceeded 20% for students classified as ESOL 2 or 3. The third-grade retention rate dropped to just over 6% for students classified as ESOL 4 reflecting the fact that as students acquired English proficiency, they were able to perform better academically. The third-grade retention rate of ESOL 1 students was almost 15%, a high rate but lower than those of ESOL 2 and 3 students. This is likely explained by the fact that many ESOL 1 students were participating in the ESOL program for less than two years and, as such, were promoted to the fourth grade due to a "good cause" exemption.

It is noteworthy that the percentage of grade K students classified as ESOL 1 who were retained was rather high at 6.0%. That rate was more than two times higher than the corresponding percentage of non-ELL students in the same grade.

Table 1
Number and Percentage of Students Retained by ELL Status

| Grade | 2011-2012 Retention Rate | June 2013 ELL Category | Number of Students | Number Retained | 2012-2013 Retention Rate |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| K | 3.5 | ESOL 1 | 2474 | 149 | 6.0 |
| | 2.2 | ESOL 2 | 1376 | 46 | 3.3 |
| | 1.4 | ESOL 3 | 1856 | 32 | 1.7 |
| | 0.9 | ESOL 4 | 5006 | 50 | 1.0 |
| | 1.8 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 10712 | 277 | 2.6 |
| | 0.0 | Formerly ELL | 14 | 1 | 7.1 |
| | 2.4 | Non-ELL | 15177 | 443 | 2.9 |
| 1 | 4.4 | ESOL 1 | 1593 | 117 | 7.3 |
| | 0.6 | ESOL 2 | 617 | 45 | 7.3 |
| | 0.4 | ESOL 3 | 5178 | 196 | 3.8 |
| | 1.1 | ESOL 4 | 3610 | 14 | 0.4 |
| | 2.2 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 10998 | 372 | 3.4 |
| | 1.1 | Formerly ELL | 168 | 2 | 1.2 |
| | 2.8 | Non-ELL | 15007 | 463 | 3.1 |
| 2 | 8.1 | ESOL 1 | 1445 | 132 | 9.1 |
| | 6.8 | ESOL 2 | 1378 | 139 | 10.1 |
| | 1.9 | ESOL 3 | 3442 | 118 | 3.4 |
| | 0.1 | ESOL 4 | 2767 | 7 | 0.3 |
| | 3.1 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 9032 | 396 | 4.4 |
| | 0.1 | Formerly ELL | 1973 | 2 | 0.1 |
| | 2.4 | Non-ELL | 14896 | 421 | 2.8 |
| 3 | 7.8 | ESOL 1 | 1341 | 196 | 14.6 |
| | 22.1 | ESOL 2 | 942 | 190 | 20.2 |
| | 22.4 | ESOL 3 | 1893 | 391 | 20.7 |
| | 5.8 | ESOL 4 | 2640 | 161 | 6.1 |
| | 13.9 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 6816 | 938 | 13.8 |
| | 0.7 | Formerly ELL | 6020 | 36 | 0.6 |
| | 5.0 | Non-ELL | 13916 | 1020 | 7.3 |
| 4 | 1.7 | ESOL 1 | 1317 | 21 | 1.6 |
| | 1.5 | ESOL 2 | 1105 | 21 | 1.9 |
| | 0.2 | ESOL 3 | 2550 | 25 | 1.0 |
| | 0.0 | ESOL 4 | 1334 | 3 | 0.2 |
| | 0.9 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 6306 | 70 | 1.1 |
| | 0.7 | Formerly ELL | 6993 | 14 | 0.2 |
| | 0.5 | Non-ELL | 12394 | 78 | 0.6 |
| 5 | 0.5 | ESOL 1 | 1370 | 16 | 1.2 |
| | 1.1 | ESOL 2 | 792 | 2 | 0.3 |
| | 0.2 | ESOL 3 | 1783 | 12 | 0.7 |
| | 0.1 | ESOL 4 | 1457 | 2 | 0.1 |
| | 0.4 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 5402 | 32 | 0.6 |
| | 0.0 | Formerly ELL | 8344 | 12 | 0.1 |
| | 0.2 | Non-ELL | 11849 | 28 | 0.2 |

| Grade | 2011-2012 Retention Rate | June 2013 ELL Category | Number of Students | Number Retained | 2012-2013 Retention Rate |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 6 | 3.7 | ESOL 1 | 1384 | 43 | 3.1 |
| | 2.5 | ESOL 2 | 725 | 14 | 1.9 |
| | 2.1 | ESOL 3 | 1051 | 18 | 1.7 |
| | 0.9 | ESOL 4 | 746 | 7 | 0.9 |
| | 2.4 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 3906 | 82 | 2.1 |
| | 0.6 | Formerly ELL | 10398 | 96 | 0.9 |
| | 1.3 | Non-ELL | 12190 | 202 | 1.7 |
| 7 | 3.9 | ESOL 1 | 1315 | 50 | 3.8 |
| | 1.6 | ESOL 2 | 680 | 20 | 2.9 |
| | 0.8 | ESOL 3 | 836 | 16 | 1.9 |
| | 0.9 | ESOL 4 | 698 | 8 | 1.1 |
| | 2.4 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 3529 | 94 | 2.7 |
| | 1.4 | Formerly ELL | 11620 | 155 | 1.3 |
| | 1.5 | Non-ELL | 12080 | 170 | 1.4 |
| 8 | 4.0 | ESOL 1 | 1448 | 50 | 3.5 |
| | 2.8 | ESOL 2 | 578 | 25 | 4.3 |
| | 1.9 | ESOL 3 | 661 | 13 | 2.0 |
| | 1.2 | ESOL 4 | 613 | 8 | 1.3 |
| | 2.9 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 3300 | 96 | 2.9 |
| | 0.8 | Formerly ELL | 11964 | 142 | 1.2 |
| | 1.4 | Non-ELL | 12102 | 209 | 1.7 |
| 9 | 8.8 | ESOL 1 | 1637 | 163 | 10.0 |
| | 1.6 | ESOL 2 | 609 | 12 | 2.0 |
| | 1.6 | ESOL 3 | 653 | 14 | 2.1 |
| | 1.0 | ESOL 4 | 527 | 8 | 1.5 |
| | 4.8 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 3426 | 197 | 5.8 |
| | 1.3 | Formerly ELL | 11988 | 151 | 1.3 |
| | 1.7 | Non-ELL | 12112 | 199 | 1.6 |
| 10 | 4.9 | ESOL 1 | 1313 | 113 | 8.6 |
| | 2.1 | ESOL 2 | 587 | 19 | 3.2 |
| | 1.5 | ESOL 3 | 653 | 11 | 1.7 |
| | 0.8 | ESOL 4 | 574 | 4 | 0.7 |
| | 3.0 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 3127 | 147 | 4.7 |
| | 0.4 | Formerly ELL | 11829 | 133 | 1.1 |
| | 1.3 | Non-ELL | 11758 | 215 | 1.8 |
| 11 | 4.9 | ESOL 1 | 979 | 102 | 10.4 |
| | 1.9 | ESOL 2 | 643 | 10 | 1.6 |
| | 0.9 | ESOL 3 | 609 | 17 | 2.8 |
| | 1.2 | ESOL 4 | 504 | 7 | 1.4 |
| | 2.8 | <i>Overall ELL</i> | 2735 | 136 | 5.0 |
| | 0.2 | Formerly ELL | 11100 | 135 | 1.2 |
| | 0.7 | Non-ELL | 10747 | 170 | 1.6 |
| K-11 | 3.4 | ELL | 68651 | 2821 | 4.1 |
| | 0.5 | Formerly ELL | 92411 | 879 | 1.0 |
| | 1.8 | Non-ELL | 154228 | 3618 | 2.3 |