ISSUES AFFECTING ELLs

Recovering lost learning is a priority and it is necessary to specifically include English language learners in this conversation, especially since the pandemic has hit many of these communities particularly hard. Here are a few issues specific to ELL students that merit attention.

1

RECLASSIFICATION

The process where students move from ELL to English proficient. To do this they must pass the ELPAC, be recommended by their teacher's, meet grade level standard, and parents must be notified.

2

COLLEGE + CAREER

Students that graduate with fewer college and career options are more likely to face economic difficulties. Currently only 1 in 4 ELL graduates meets A-G standards, limiting college options.

3

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Preparing ELL students for success needs to begin early. Quality preschool programs can increase literacy skills and build a foundation in order to reduce the gap that can start in kindergarten.

4

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

Staff need skills to relate to people from a wide variety of backgrounds. Children with teachers who are culturally competent are more likely to feel accepted and cared for in the classroom.

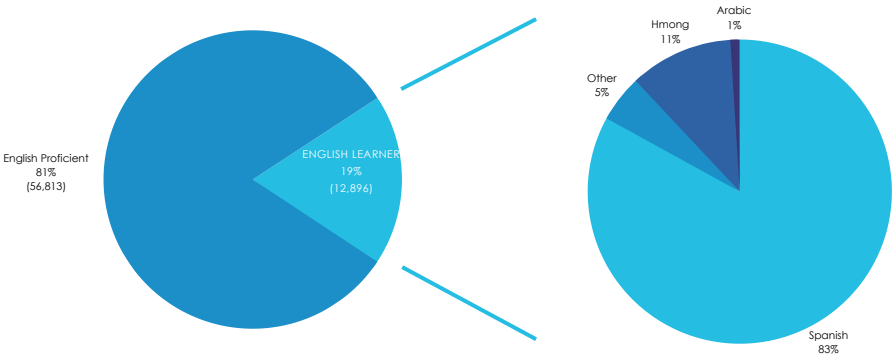
5

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Research shows that parent engagement in schools is closely linked to better student behavior, higher academic achievement, and enhanced social skills.

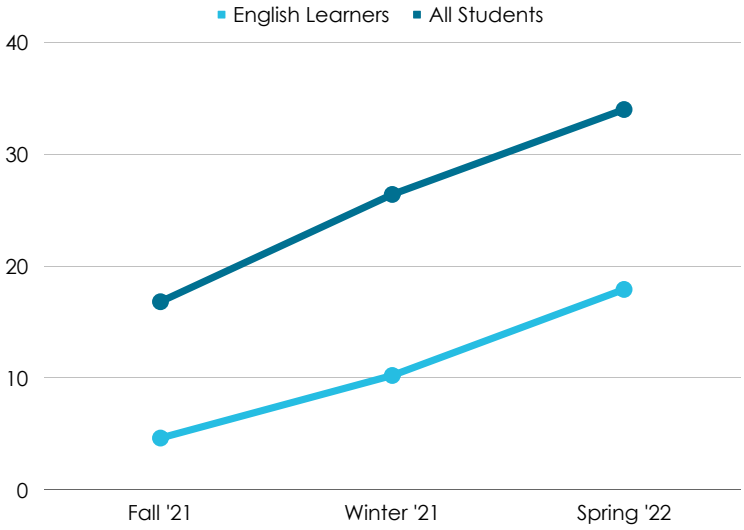
English Language Learners in Fresno Unified School District

Nearly 1 in 5 FUSD students are classified as ELL. The vast majority of these students' native language is Spanish (83%) ; there are also large pockets of Hmong (11%) and Arabic (1%) speakers; with all other language speakers making up the final 5%. These students belong to other special populations, including receiving special education services or socio economic disadvantage.



How well are the academic needs of ELL students being met?

In school, ELL are often not given the tools they need to succeed academically.



18% ELLs on grade level in reading

3.5x increase from the beginning of the year

During the COVID-induced suspension of SBAC testing, Fresno unified school district has used the iReady diagnostic assessment to monitor student progress. The test monitors student progress throughout the year and is given in the fall, winter, and spring. At the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year only 4% of ELLs were reading on grade level. By the winter this number had improved to 10%, further improving to 18% by the spring. The improvement is marked. This number however is vastly different from the district wide average.