## Office of English Language Acquisition English Learners: Demographic Trends

During the 2000-01 school year (SY), a total of 3,793,764 English learners (ELs) were enrolled in public schools in kindergarten through grade 12 in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, representing $\mathbf{8 . 1 \%}$ of total student enrollment. By the SY 2016-17, the EL population had grown by more than one million students to a total of $4,858,377$ ELs, representing $9.6 \%$ of total student enrollment. Nationally, the percentage of ELs enrolled in U.S. schools rose by 1.5 percentage points between SY 2000-01 and SY 2016-17.


English Learners as a Percentage of Total
Enrollment, Top 10 States: SY 2000-01



English Learners as a Percentage of Total
Enrollment, Top 10* States: SY 2016-17
*The chart below includes 11 states because Illinois and Oregon tied for $10^{\text {th }}$ place.


Forty-three states saw increases in their EL populations as a percentage of total student enrollment between SY 2000-01 and SY 2016-17, ranging from just a 0.1 percentage point increase in Hawaii and South Dakota to a 7.9 percentage point increase in Kansas. Seven states and the District of Columbia saw declines in their EL populations as a percentage of total student enrollment, ranging from a decrease of 8.8 percentage points in Arizona to a decrease of 1.9 percentage points in Utah.

## OELA

## Percent Increase in Number of English Learners, by State: SY 2000-01 to SY 2016-17



The number of ELs in the U.S. grew 28.1\% between the 2000-01 school year and the 2016-17 school year. Forty-three states saw the number of ELs increase, ranging from 315 ELs in Wyoming to 351,559 ELs in Texas. Of these 43 states, the increases of ELs as a percentage of the total EL student population ranged from a 2.7\% increase in New York to a $765.1 \%$ increase in South Carolina.

## Numerical Decrease in the English Learner Population, by State: SY 2000-01 to SY 2016-17




