

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND THEIR ACADEMIC AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION PROGRESS: 2016-2017

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INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to address the following three areas. First, it describes the demographic characteristics of students classified as English Language Learners (ELL). Second, it compares and contrasts the academic achievement of students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program on the 2016 and 2017 Florida Standards Assessments (FSA), and End-of-Course (EOC) assessments. Third, it describes the results of ELL students on the English Language Proficiency assessment known as ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. Each of these three areas is described in a separate section of the report.

When a student enrolls in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) for the first time, a language survey inquiring about student and parent language use is completed. If the student's or parents' primary language is not English, the student is tested to determine his/her English proficiency. Based on the results of this assessment, the student is either classified as an English Language Learner (ELL) or deemed proficient in English. The English proficiency level for ELL students can range from ESOL 1 (lowest) to ESOL 4 (highest). ELL students are enrolled in specific ESOL courses tailored to meet students' language needs. The students' English proficiency levels are reassessed annually, and the appropriate ESOL placement is determined. Once it is ascertained that a student has acquired English proficiency, the student no longer participates in any ESOL course and is considered as having exited the ESOL program. At this point, the student is classified as *formerly* ELL (ESOL level 5); during the two-year period following the exit from the ESOL program, the student retains this status and the student's academic achievement is monitored.

In this report, the achievement of students in the ESOL program is disaggregated by grade and ESOL level. For comparison purposes, *formerly ELL* and *non-ELL* categories are included in the report. The non-ELL category includes students who have been out of the ESOL program for two years or longer, as well as those who have never been classified as ELL students.

Please note that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which was signed into law in 2015, imposed new requirements on the reporting of results of ELLs beginning with the school year 2017-2018. Consequently, the present report is the last one in the series of "pre-ESSA" reports.

SECTION I 2016-2017 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This section describes certain demographic characteristics of ELL and non-ELL students in the District as of February 2017. Table 1 below exhibits demographic features for all K-12 students in the District disaggregated by their ELL status, race/ethnicity, free/reduced price lunch (FRL) status, SPED status, and student language.

Table 1 2016-2017 Demographic Characteristics of Students in Grades K-12 by ELL Status

		EI (n = 72			ly ELL 7,713)	Non- (n = 24	
			%	n	%	n	%
	Asian	599	0.8	248	0.9	3030	1.2
_ \ ity	Black	5232	7.2	1930	7.0	64401	26.0
Race/ Ethnicity	Hispanic	64799	89.1	24712	89.2	156372	63.1
	White	2011	2.8	762	2.7	21796	8.8
	Other	71	0.1	61	0.1	2170	0.9
S	Free	57944	79.7	21375	77.1	158942	64.1
FRL Status	Reduced	3373	4.6	1765	6.4	17577	7.1
	Non-FRL	11395	15.7	4573	16.5	71250	28.8
ıt ge	Spanish	63831	88.4	24312	87.7	97680	39.4
Student Language	Haitian Creole	4686	6.5	1756	6.3	6526	2.6
St	Other	3655	5.1	1645	5.9	143563	57.9
SI	Gifted	1138	1.6	1727	6.2	40931	16.5
Status	Specific Learning Disabled	3166	4.4	1616	5.8	9518	3.8
SPED	Other SPED	3466	4.8	1386	5.0	14016	5.7
S	Non-SPED	64402	89.2	22984	82.9	183304	74.0

Note: The percentages shown in Table 1 are those for subcategories of a demographic characteristic *within* each of the three ELL groups: ELL, formerly ELL, or non-ELL.

Table 1 shows that ELL students, as a group, differ from students in the formerly ELL and non-ELL groups on some important characteristics. Overall, ELL students are more likely to be eligible for the federal free/reduced price lunch program (the eligibility for which is based on the household income) than students in the non-ELL group. In addition, ELL students are much less likely to be classified as gifted than are students in the other two groups.

SECTION II 2016 AND 2017 FSA AND EOC ASSESSMENT RESULTS BY ELL STATUS

This section compares and contrasts the academic achievement of students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program on the 2016 and 2017 state exams. It is separated into several subsections dealing with different academic disciplines.

2016 and 2017 FSA English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Results

Overall, 20% of current ELL students in grades 3-5 performed at or above achievement level 3 on the ELA component of the 2016 FSA. In 2017, that percentage increased to 27%. The corresponding figures for grades 3-5 for the mathematics subtest of the FSA were 36% and 45% for the years 2016 and 2017, respectively.

In grades 6-8, 12% of current ELL students performed within achievement levels 3-5 on the ELA component of the 2016 and 2017 FSA. The corresponding figures for grades 6-8 for the mathematics subtest of the FSA were 24% in both 2016 and 2017.

In grades 9-10, about 9% of current ELL students performed within achievement levels 3-5 on the ELA component of the 2016 FSA, compared with 8% in 2017.

It is noteworthy that higher percentages of formerly ELL students in grades 3 and 4 scored within achievement levels 3-5 on both the ELA and mathematics components of the 2016 and 2017 FSA than non-ELL students.

Table 2 shows student academic achievement disaggregated by student ESOL/ELL classification status for each of the grade levels. The results show that in most cases the percentages of students at each grade level scoring at achievement level 3 or higher increase as students gain English proficiency moving from one ESOL level to the next. Note that the following table exhibits the academic performance of different groups of students for two academic years.

Table 2 Number and Percentage of Students scoring at or above achievement level 3 by ELL status on the FSA in 2016 and 2017

1,000		age of states	EL,			Mathematics			
		2	2016		2017	,	2016		2017
		Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5
	ESOL 1	1690	5	1468	6	1691	23	1455	28
3	ESOL 2	714	10	772	13	712	34	769	30
	ESOL 3	1544	17	2234	22	1543	37	2230	40
Grade	ESOL 4	2193	35	5118	61	2179	56	5100	71
	Formerly ELL	6151	75	2599	88	6286	82	2597	90
	Non-ELL	15498	60	16025	65	15369	67	15948	69
	ESOL 1	1483	4	1262	4	1586	19	1300	26
4	ESOL 2	1153	10	514	11	1165	25	516	40
	ESOL 3	2182	22	692	23	2192	38	688	46
Grade	ESOL 4	1304	55	2253	22	1307	65	2243	47
	Formerly ELL	4309	67	5003	68	6248	78	4993	77
	Non-ELL	16351	61	15950	67	14531	65	15920	74
	ESOL 1	1700	4	1157	4	1801	21	1177	23
2	ESOL 2	706	11	432	8	704	27	432	28
	ESOL 3	1380	19	800	16	1381	34	802	34
Grade	ESOL 4	965	43	2755	19	962	54	2757	36
	Formerly ELL	1815	41	2213	52	5087	60	2212	61
	Non-ELL	18711	65	19322	65	15472	66	19367	68
	ESOL 1	1413	3	1186	2	1473	13	1204	14
9	ESOL 2	571	9	476	6	565	20	477	21
de (ESOL 3	746	15	745	12	738	24	748	30
Grade	ESOL 4	419	31	1395	20	417	33	1401	32
	Formerly ELL	4035	34	2942	39	4167	35	2960	39
	Non-ELL	17936	62	18345	64	17430	58	18372	62
	ESOL 1	1511	2	1114	1	1580	12	1132	13
_	ESOL 2	579	9	495	7	579	24	484	21
	ESOL 3	671	13	606	12	665	25	602	25
Grade	ESOL 4	549	29	979	21	532	40	969	34
	Formerly ELL	3708	27	3387	33	4254	35	3217	32
	Non-ELL	18714	59	18848	63	15484	55	16101	57

Table 2 (continued)

			Read	ing	Mathematics					
			2016	2	2017		2016		2017	
		Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	Levels 3-5 n %	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	
	ESOL 1	1517	4	1255	3	1517	23	1250	19	
∞	ESOL 2	643	15	585	7	606	34	556	30	
	ESOL 3	648	24	703	16	592	33	635	28	
Grade	ESOL 4	463	40	884	32	385	37	717	32	
	Formerly ELL	2794	35	2533	34	2910	36	2050	31	
	Non-ELL	19860	66	20158	65	10579	46	10771	44	
	ESOL 1	1672	2	1382	1					
6	ESOL 2	667	6	626	4					
	ESOL 3	577	18	730	11					
Grade	ESOL 4	412	31	764	26					
I^{\smile}	Formerly ELL	2151	32	2247	30					
	Non-ELL	21050	61	20300	62					
	ESOL 1	1339	1	919	1					
10	ESOL 2	640	4	590	2					
	ESOL 3	627	13	625	5					
Grade	ESOL 4	437	26	972	14					
5	Formerly ELL	1730	29	1642	28					
	Non-ELL	21475	56	20983	58					

Note: In this and other tables of this section, the Formerly ELL group contains students who exited the ESOL program no earlier than on March 1 two years prior to the assessment year.

2016 and 2017 FCAT 2.0 Science Results

This part of Section II describes student academic performance on the science component of the 2016 and 2017 FCAT 2.0. Table 3 shows student performance on the science subtest disaggregated by student ESOL/ELL classification status for each of the grade levels.

Overall, only 17% of current ELL students in grade 5 scored within achievement levels 3-5 on the science component of the 2016 and 2017 FCAT 2.0. Approximately 12% of the 8th grade ELL students scored at or above achievement level 3 in 2016. This percentage increased to 25% in 2017.

The results exhibited in Table 3 reveal that the percentages of students at each grade level scoring 3 or higher increase as students gain English proficiency moving from one ESOL level to the next. Note that the table below exhibits the academic performance of different groups of students for two academic years.

Table 3
Number and Percentage of Students Scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 on the Science Component of the FCAT 2.0 2016 and 2017

	ESOL/ELL	2	016	2	2017
	Status	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5
	ESOL 1	1807	6	1177	8
S	ESOL 2	715	13	434	9
	ESOL 3	1404	17	799	21
Grade	ESOL 4	974	40	2760	21
	Formerly ELL	5078	51	2213	52
	Non-ELL	15523	59	19346	60
	ESOL 1	1556	5	1242	4
∞	ESOL 2	637	14	576	7
	ESOL 3	650	17	683	15
Grade	ESOL 4	441	28	859	23
	Formerly ELL	3500	31	2419	27
	Non-ELL	15908	51	16479	51

2016 and 2017 End-of-Course Assessment Results

Algebra 1

Students in grades 6-12 participated in the Algebra 1 EOC assessment during both the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. However, the numbers of ELL students participating in the test were small in all grades other than grades 9. Consequently, only the results of students in grade 9 who participated in the spring assessments are reported in Table 4 below.

Table 4
Number and Percentage of Students Scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 on the 2016 and 2017 FSA Algebra 1 EOC Assessment

	ESOL/ELL	2	016	2	2017
İ	Status	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5
	ESOL 1	1600	15	1262	17
6	ESOL 2	622	26	582	26
	ESOL 3	533	34	685	34
Grade	ESOL 4	331	35	670	43
	Formerly ELL	1582	29	1841	36
	Non-ELL	10833	35	10928	44

The percentage of the current ELL students in grade 9 scoring within achievement levels 3-5 on the Algebra 1 EOC increased from 23% in 2016 to 28% in 2017.

Geometry

Students in grades 7-12 participated in the Geometry EOC assessment during both the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. However, the numbers of ELL students participating in the test were small in all grades other than grade 10. Consequently, only the results of students in this grade who participated in the spring assessments are reported in Table 5 below.

Table 5
Number and Percentage of Students Scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 on the 2016 and 2017 FSA Geometry EOC Assessment

	ESOL/ELL	2	016	2	2017
İ	Status	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5
	ESOL 1	1273	13	894	18
10	ESOL 2	596	24	580	22
	ESOL 3	589	28	582	30
Grade	ESOL 4	375	29	897	32
5	Formerly ELL	1320	25	1312	31
	Non-ELL	10838	26	10563	31

Of the current ELL students in grade 10, approximately 21% scored within achievement levels 3-5 on the Geometry EOC in the spring of 2016. In 2017, this percentage increased to 26%.

Algebra 2

Students in grades 8-12 participated in the Algebra 2 EOC assessment during both the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. However, the numbers of ELL students participating in the test were small in all grades other than grade 11. Consequently, only the results of students in grade 11 who participated in the spring assessments are reported in Table 6 below.

Table 6
Number and Percentage of Students Scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 on the 2016 and 2017 FSA Algebra 2 EOC Assessment

	ESOL/ELL	2	016	2	2017
	Status	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5
	ESOL 1	291	16	117	18
<u> </u>	ESOL 2	255	21	103	22
le 1	ESOL 3	327	22	124	26
Grade	ESOL 4	251	30	317	31
ل ا	Formerly ELL	844	26	560	39
	Non-ELL	7989	16	4158	25

Of the current ELL students in grade 11, approximately 22% scored within achievement levels 3-5 on the Algebra 2 EOC in the spring of 2016. This percentage increased to 26% in 2017. It should be noted that formerly ELL students in grade 11, as a group, outperformed the non-ELL students on both the 2016 and 2017 FSA Algebra 2 EOC Assessment.

Biology

Students in grades 8-12 participated in the Biology EOC assessment during both the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. However, the numbers of ELL students participating in the test were small in all grades other than grade 10. Consequently, only the results of students in grade 10 who participated in the spring assessments are reported in Table 7 below.

Table 7
Number and Percentage of Students Scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 on the 2016 and 2017 Biology EOC Assessment

	ESOL/ELL	20	016	2	2017
	Status	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5
	ESOL 1	1306	8	884	11
10	ESOL 2	592	20	565	14
	ESOL 3	569	31	583	26
Grade	ESOL 4	376	41	877	39
9	Formerly ELL	1404	42	1340	45
	Non-ELL	11742	51	10474	53

Of the current 10th grade ELL students, approximately 19% scored within achievement levels 3-5 on the 2016 Biology EOC. In 2017, this percentage increased to 23%.

US History

Students in grades 9-12 participated in the US History EOC assessment during both the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years. However, the numbers of students participating in the test were small in all grades other than grade 11. Consequently, only the results of students in grade 11 who participated in the spring assessment are reported in Table 8 below.

Table 8
Number and Percentage of Students Scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 on the 2016 and 2017 US History EOC Assessment

	ESOL/ELL	20	016	2	2017
	Status	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5
	ESOL 1	877	5	616	8
	ESOL 2	566	11	504	13
e 1	ESOL 3	558	25	496	20
Grade	ESOL 4	377	44	835	34
ن ا	Formerly ELL	1304	52	1347	55
	Non-ELL	18654	67	19031	72

Of the current 11th grade ELL students, approximately 17% scored within achievement levels 3-5 on the 2016 US History EOC. In 2017, this figure increased to approximately 20%.

Civics

The results of students in grade 7 who participated in the spring assessment by their ELL status are reported in Table 9.

Table 9
Number and Percentage of Students Scoring at or above Achievement Level 3 on the 2016 and 2017 Civics EOC Assessment

	ESOL/ELL	20	016	2	2017
	Status	Total n	% in Levels 3-5	Total n	% in Levels 3-5
	ESOL 1	1659	10	1136	10
	ESOL 2	593	25	491	23
	ESOL 3	692	35	606	34
Grade	ESOL 4	551	56	979	51
Ι ΄	Formerly ELL	3674	49	3355	57
	Non-ELL	19038	73	18772	79

Of the current 7th grade ELL students, approximately 25% scored within achievement levels 3-5 on the 2016 Civics EOC. In 2017, this figure increased to approximately 29%.

SECTION III PROGRESS OF ELL STUDENTS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACOUISITION

Academic year 2016-2017 was the first year in which the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 was administered after the multistate World-class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium rescaled the test. As a result, the scale scores and achievement levels from the 2016-2017 administration are not comparable to those from the previous administration.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 measures students' English language proficiency in four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. The assessment provides scale scores and proficiency levels in each of these domains as well as an overall composite scale score and proficiency level. Proficiency levels vary from 1 to 6 and are labeled (1) Entering, (2) Emerging, (3) Developing, (4) Expanding, (5) Bridging, and (6) Reaching. Level 6, or Reaching, is considered by WIDA as indicating proficiency in a particular English language domain. Proficiency level determinations are grade-level specific; proficiency levels prior to level 6 are reported as decimals. For example, a proficiency level of 3.4 indicates that a student is at the Developing level of proficiency and has made four tenths of the way to the Expanding level. Tables 10 and 11 show the outcomes on the 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.

Table 10
Numbers and Percentages of Students Scoring in Levels 4-6 in the Listening and Speaking
Modalities on the 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

2017 Grade	List	tening	Spea	king
2017 Grade	Total n	% in Levels 4-6	Total n	% in Levels 4-6
K	5245	57	4491	49
1	7146	78	3621	40
2	7982	77	4223	41
3	8072	84	3758	39
4	3589	75	2338	49
5	4005	77	2830	54
6	2456	63	1856	48
7	1799	55	1477	45
8	1810	51	1444	41
9	1684	45	1163	31
10	1675	49	1050	31
11	1248	44	772	27
12	762	46	430	27
K-12	47473	67	29453	42

Table 11
Numbers and Percentages of Students Scoring in Levels 4-6 in the Reading and Writing Modalities on the 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

2017 Grade	Reading		Writing	
201 / Grade	Total n	% in Levels 4-6	Total n	% in Levels 4-6
K	2220	24	408	4
1	3481	38	180	2
2	4784	46	1394	13
3	5431	56	1713	18
4	2251	47	1543	32
5	2294	44	2032	39
6	994	25	852	22
7	861	26	661	20
8	966	27	659	19
9	1318	35	1209	32
10	1198	35	1066	31
11	985	34	887	31
12	519	31	366	22
K-12	27302	38	12970	18

Table 12 shows ESOL exit rates in 2016-2017. The column labeled "Total n" refers to the number of ELLs as of February of 2017 who participated in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. The figures shown in the next two columns reflect those who exited the ESOL program based on the results of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and other assessments. The State Board of Education established a rule for exiting the ESOL program. Under that rule, as amended in May 2017, students must have achieved an overall composite proficiency level of at least 4 and score at least 4 in the reading domain of the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. In addition, students in grades 3 or above had to achieve at least level 3 on the ELA component of the FSA, and students in grades 10-12 had to satisfy the reading graduation requirements.

Table 12
Numbers and Percentages of Students Exiting the ESOL Program in 2016-2017

	2016-2017				
Grade	Total n	Exited ESOL			
	1 Otal II	n	%		
K	9248	1347	15		
1	9193	1304	14		
2	10437	3368	32		
3	9561	2820	29		
4	4711	621	13		
5	5004	598	12		
6	3769	307	8		
7	3182	244	8		
8	3375	355	11		
9	3611	271	8		
10	3344	163	5		
11	2730	231	8		
12	1423	153	11		
K-12	69588	11782	17		