

NEWS RELEASE

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Report Provides Comprehensive Look at English Learner Students

(Salem, Ore.) – The Oregon Department of Education released a [report](#) today that provides an in-depth look at English Learner students in Oregon. The statutorily required report provides the public with the range of results for English Learners in each of the state’s 197 school districts for the 2015-16 school year, including variances in demographic, financial and assessment figures.

“If we are going to reduce the opportunity and achievement gaps our English Learners face, it is important to identify and act on the areas where we can do better,” Deputy Superintendent Salam Noor said. “The report shows that students exiting the English Learner program graduate at a higher rate than the state average, so focusing on helping them achieve this milestone ultimately benefits them and strengthens our state’s economic future.” According to College Board, high school graduates earn 40 percent more than those without a diploma.

Among the findings in the report:

- The five-year graduation rate for students who exited English Learner programs is 80 percent, above the statewide average of 78 percent.
- The freshman on-track-to-graduate rate is 67 percent for current English Learners, compared to 82 percent for former EL students.
- Statewide, an average of 39 percent of current English Learners who graduate high school in four years go on to college. For former EL students, that rate is 49 percent.
- English Learners make up about 10 percent of the student body statewide, but that number varies from less than five percent in some districts to more than 35 percent in others.
- Spanish is the most common home language of English Learner students, but there were more than 50 other languages spoken in districts around the state.

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