

**Albanian** is spoken by over 7.5 million people worldwide. Many Albanian speakers in Iowa herald from Albania and Kosovo.

**Amharic** is spoken by nearly 57 million people worldwide. It is the primary language of the Amhara people of Ethiopia, but is also widely spoken by other Ethiopians.

**Arabic** is an official language in 28 countries across North Africa and the Middle East, with many regional dialects. Over 292 million people speak Arabic as a first language. In Iowa, the majority of foreign-born Arabic speakers herald from Iraq, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

**Bosnian**, an official language of Bosnia-Herzegovina, is spoken by 2.5 million people worldwide.

**Burmese**, an official language of Myanmar (Burma), is spoken by over 40 million people worldwide.

**Chinese** dialects are spoken by over 1.5 billion speakers worldwide. There are many dialects of Chinese, including Mandarin and Cantonese.

**Chuukese** is an official language of the island of Chuuk in Micronesia and is spoken by nearly 52,000 people worldwide.

**Creole-Haitian**, an official language of Haiti, has over 10 million speakers worldwide.

**Ewe**, the language of the Ewe people of Ghana and Togo in West Africa, is spoken by 7 million people worldwide.

**French** is an official language in 29 countries with over 274 million speakers worldwide. In Iowa, the majority of foreign-born French speakers hail from West and Central Africa, especially the Democratic Republic of Congo, also Rwanda.

**Hindi** is the fourth most-spoken first language in the world and counts for over 590 million speakers worldwide. It is an official language of India.

**Hmong** is spoken by over 3.5 million people worldwide. Hmong is the native language of the ethnic Hmong people from Laos, Thailand, northern Vietnam, and parts of southern China.

**Karen** languages are spoken by over 7 million people, primarily in Myanmar (Burma) and Thailand.

**Kinyarwanda** is an official language of Rwanda and is spoken by 10 million people worldwide.

**Lao** is the official language of Laos and widely spoken in parts of Thailand. It is spoken by 30 million people worldwide.

**Lingala** is an official language of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. It is spoken by approximately 45 million speakers worldwide.

**Marshallese** is an official language of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and spoken by nearly 100,000 people worldwide.

**Nepali** is an official language in Nepal and India and is spoken by 25 million people worldwide. In Iowa, the majority of foreign-born native speakers of Nepali are from Bhutan and Nepal.

**Nilo-Saharan** languages include Nuer and Dinka. In Iowa, the majority of foreign-born native speakers of Nilo-Saharan languages are from Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

**Oromo** is an official language of Ethiopia and spoken by approximately 30 million people worldwide.

**Pohnpeian** is an official language of the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia and spoken by nearly 40,000 people worldwide.

**Rundi** is an official language of Burundi in Eastern Africa and is spoken by 9 million people worldwide.

**Somali** is an official language in 4 countries and is spoken by over 21 million people. In Iowa, the majority of foreign-born native Somali speakers are from Somalia.

**Top 15 Counties with Highest Number of Different Languages Spoken by K-12 EL Students**

	Black Hawk	Buena Vista	Cerro Gordo	Dallas	Dubuque	Johnson	Linn	Marshall	Polk	Pottawattamie	Scott	Story	Wapello	Warren	Woodbury
Albanian	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	14	14	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Amharic	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	14	14	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	34
Arabic	11	<10	127	<10	390	49	11	391	<10	24	34	<10	<10	<10	<10
Bosnian	150	<10	86	<10	<10	<10	<10	191	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Burmese	70	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	63	398	<10	<10	<10	11	<10	<10
Chinese	13	<10	<10	23	<10	40	<10	<10	37	<10	14	35	<10	<10	<10
Chuukese	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	66	<10	85
Creole-Haitian	51	<10	16	<10	<10	116	<10	156	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Ewe	<10	<10	<10	<10	21	13	<10	<10	<10	12	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
French	135	<10	<10	<10	275	129	10	38	<10	10	11	37	<10	<10	51
Hindi	<10	<10	18	<10	10	10	<10	23	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Hmong	<10	62	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Karen languages	98	89	<10	<10	<10	<10	108	497	<10	<10	<10	<10	29	<10	<10
Kinyarwanda	<10	<10	<10	<10	11	57	<10	79	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Lao	63	<10	<10	<10	10	<10	<10	87	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	21
Lingala	13	<10	<10	<10	35	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	10
Marshallese	192	<10	<10	198	<10	18	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	112	<10	<10
Nepali	<10	<10	<10	<10	47	<10	<10	286	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Nilo-Saharan	34	<10	<10	<10	13	412	<10	<10	<10	<10	21	<10	<10	<10	32
Oromo	<10	<10	<10	<10	10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	83
Pohnpeian	23	163	26	<10	<10	53	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	28
Rundi	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	86	<10	62	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Somali	<10	<10	10	<10	<10	13	<10	219	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	13	64
Spanish	512	799	63	511	162	667	359	1375	5307	602	299	192	545	62	2244
Swahili	<10	<10	21	<10	182	335	<10	506	<10	18	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Telugu	<10	<10	36	<10	<10	13	<10	35	<10	19	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
Tigrinya	<10	32	37	<10	<10	<10	<10	78	<10	<10	<10	<10	26	<10	148
Vietnamese	35	<10	<10	18	<10	28	20	<10	201	12	60	<10	<10	<10	107
Total	1,265	1,227	124	1,028	409	1,847	1,474	1,641	9,588	657	554	381	879	107	2,983

**Spanish** is an official language in 20 countries with over 500 million speakers worldwide. In Iowa, the majority of foreign-born Spanish speakers herald from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

**Swahili** is an official language in 7 Central and East African countries with over 100 million speakers. In Iowa, the majority of foreign-born Swahili speakers come from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya.

**Telugu** is one of the official languages of India with over 94 million speakers worldwide.

**Tigrinya** is spoken by almost 10 million people worldwide. It is the primary language of the Tigrinya people of Eritrea and Ethiopia located in Eastern Africa.

**Vietnamese**, an official language of Vietnam, is spoken by approximately 90 million people worldwide.

Source: Iowa Department of Education English Learners 2020-2021\*

