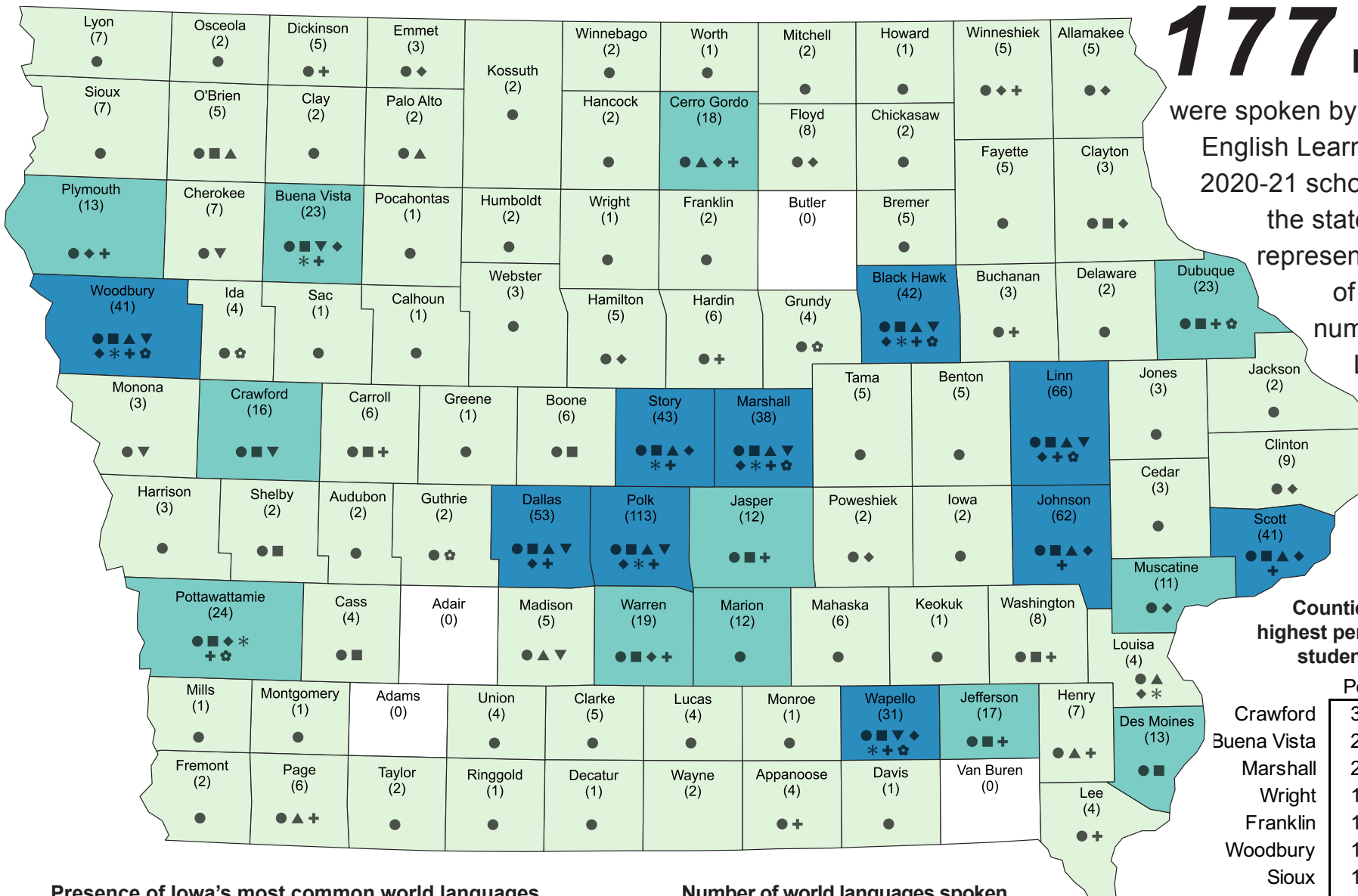


# 177 world languages

were spoken by **31,236** K-12 English Learners during the 2020-21 school year across the state of Iowa. This represents an increase of **59.5%** in the number of English Learners since 2010.



### Presence of Iowa's most common world languages

- Spanish (19,630)
- Arabic (1,101)
- ▲ Swahili (1,095)
- ▼ Karen languages (863)
- ◆ French (758)
- \* Burmese (568)
- + Vietnamese (546)
- ☆ Marshallese (533)

### Number of world languages spoken (total count of languages)

- zero
- 1 - 9
- 10 - 24
- 25 - 113

### Counties with the highest percentage of EL students in Iowa

|             | Percent | Number |
|-------------|---------|--------|
| Crawford    | 32.7%   | 905    |
| Buena Vista | 26.0%   | 1,227  |
| Marshall    | 24.7%   | 1,608  |
| Wright      | 19.7%   | 495    |
| Franklin    | 17.6%   | 231    |
| Woodbury    | 16.1%   | 2,893  |
| Sioux       | 15.6%   | 809    |
| Clarke      | 14.8%   | 231    |
| Wapello     | 14.1%   | 870    |
| Allamakee   | 13.0%   | 270    |

Source: Iowa Department of Education English Learners data 2010 - 2021

## Just the Facts:

World Languages Spoken In Iowa by K-12 English Learners 2020-21

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Last Updated: January 2022



**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       | <10   | <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         | 21     | 13      | <10     | <10   | <10      | <10   | 12            | <10   | <10   | <10     | <10    | <10      |
| French          | 135        | <10         | <10         | 275    | 129     | 10      | 38    | <10      | 10    | 11            | 37    | <10   | <10     | 51     | <10      |
| 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     | 108     | 497   | <10      | <10   | <10           | <10   | <10   | 29      | <10    | <10      |
| Kinyarwanda     | <10        | <10         | <10         | 11     | 57      | 79      | <10   | <10      | <10   | <10           | <10   | <10   | <10     | <10    | <10      |
| Lao             | 63         | <10         | <10         | 10     | <10     | <10     | 87    | <10      | <10   | <10           | <10   | <10   | <10     | <10    | 21       |
| Lingala         | 13         | <10         | <10         | 35     | <10     | <10     | <10   | <10      | <10   | <10           | <10   | <10   | <10     | <10    | 10       |
| Marshallese     | 192        | <10         | 198         | 18     | <10     | <10     | <10   | <10      | <10   | <10           | <10   | <10   | 112     | <10    | <10      |
| Nepali          | <10        | <10         | <10         | 47     | <10     | 286     | <10   | <10      | <10   | <10           | <10   | <10   | <10     | <10    | <10      |
| Nilo-Saharan    | 34         | <10         | <10         | 13     | 412     | <10     | <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    | 53      | <10     | <10   | <10      | <10   | <10           | <10   | <10   | <10     | <10    | 28       |
| Rundi           | <10        | <10         | <10         | 86     | <10     | 219     | <10   | <10      | <10   | <10           | <10   | <10   | <10     | <10    | 64       |
| Somali          | <10        | <10         | 10          | 13     | <10     | 219     | <10   | <10      | <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          | 182    | 335     | <10     | 506   | <10      | 506   | 18            | <10   | <10   | <10     | <10    | <10      |
| Telugu          | <10        | <10         | 36          | <10    | <10     | 13      | 35    | <10      | 35    | 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\*

