

Indicators Program



English Language Learners in Iowa: School Years 1992-1993 to 2015-2016

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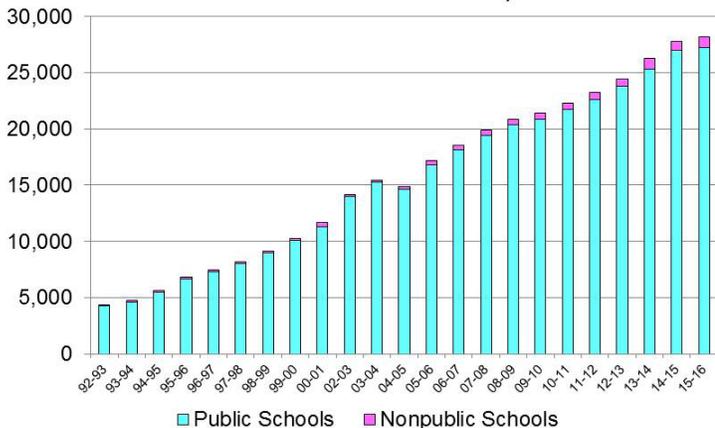
English Language Learner (ELL)¹ Students

Findings

This report reviews and highlights the trends in English Language Learner (ELL)¹ students in Iowa and its counties during the school years of 1992-1993 to 2015-2016. These data were obtained from the Iowa Department of Education. The purpose is to gain insight and understanding about recent immigration into Iowa. This review finds:

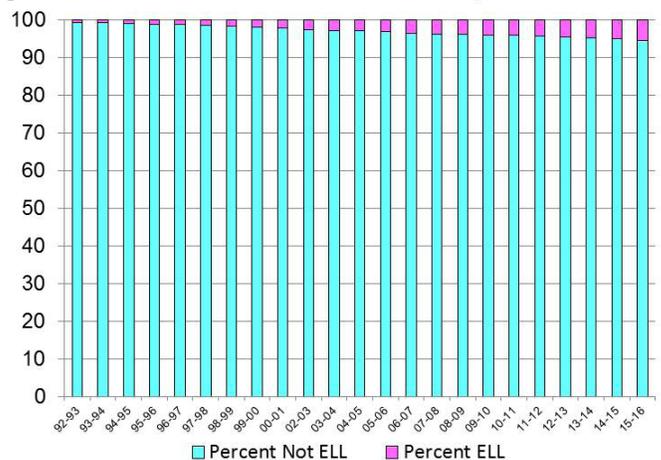
- Gradual annual increases in number and percentage of ELL students (Figures 1, 2; Table 1).
- ELL students are a relatively small percentage of student enrollment statewide. Some counties have local areas where the number or percentage of ELL students is relatively large. Other counties have very few ELL students.
- Through the last two decades, ELL student locations have expanded across more counties in Iowa. The first languages of ELL students have become somewhat more diverse than in the past, but Spanish remains the first language of the majority of ELL students.
- The locations of ELL students reflect the areas of Iowa where their parents and families have found jobs, homes, and communities of settlement. Many are locations that have industries with a relatively large immigrant workforce but immigrant families now have a presence across most areas of Iowa.

Figure 1. English Language Learning Students by School Type, School Years 1992-1993 to 2015-2016, Iowa



Data Source: Iowa Department of Education

Figure 2. Percentage of Total Enrollment by English Language Learners, School Years 1992-1993 to 2015-2016, Iowa



Data Source: Iowa Department of Education

In recent decades, Iowa has experienced higher levels of immigration to the state than during the 1970s and 1980s. The nation as a whole and many other states have noted increased immigration as well. One outcome of this recent immigration is an increased number of elementary and secondary students who do not have English as their first language. Examining the changes in English Language Learner (ELL)¹ students can give us insight into the overall picture of recent immigration into Iowa. This report reviews the trends in number, percentage, location, grade level, and first language of students in both public and nonpublic schools who have received English Language Learner services in Iowa in recent years. The ELL data in this report were obtained from the Iowa Department of Education’s website for the school years 1992-1993 through 2015-2016.¹

In the 2015-2016 school year, Iowa had 28,218 kindergarten through 12th grade students who were receiving ELL services. These students were 5.5 percent of Iowa’s entire K-12 enrollment (513,102) that included both public and nonpublic schools. In the earliest school years included in this report, Iowa had fewer than 6,000 ELL students but recorded gradual increases nearly every year during the 24 school years reported here. Even with the gradual gains in ELL students, the proportion that these students have in the state’s overall enrollment has been below six percent, increasing by a few tenths of a percent each year (Figures 1,2; Table 1).

During these school years, a large majority of the ELL students have been enrolled in public schools rather than nonpublic schools. In 2015-

2016, 3.5 percent of the ELL students were in nonpublic schools with the remaining 96.5 percent in public schools. Because most ELL students have been in public schools, the overall percentage trend in the state closely mirrors the percentage trend in the public schools. In recent years, the proportion that nonpublic ELL students were of nonpublic enrollment increased to 3.0 percent in 2015-2016 (Figures 1,3; Table 1). Statewide, more ELL students tend to be in the younger school grades (K-4) than in the older grades. In 2015-2016, 56.8 percent of ELL students were in grades K-4, 26.7 percent in grades 5-8, and 16.5 percent were in grades 9-12. These proportions were fairly consistent across a number of years (Figure 4). Counties, however, varied significantly in the grade level composition of their ELL students (Table 2).

Table 1. Number and Percent English Language Learner (ELL) Students and Total PK¹-12 Enrollment by School Type; Annual Change from Previous Year, All Schools; School Years 1992 – 1993 through 2015 – 2016,² Iowa.

School Year	All Schools						Public Schools			Nonpublic Schools		
	Number, Percent, Annual Change from Previous Year						Percent ELL	Number ELL	PK ¹ -12 Enrollment	Percent ELL	Number ELL	PK ¹ -12 Enrollment
	Percent ELL	Number ELL	PK ¹ -12 Enrollment	Number Change	Percent Change	Percent ELL						
2015 – 2016 ¹	5.5 ¹	28218 ¹	513102 ¹	410 ¹	1.5 ¹	5.7 ¹	27241 ¹	480062 ¹	3.0 ¹	977 ¹	33040 ¹	
2014 – 2015	5.1	27808	542600	1542	5.9	5.3	26990	506336	2.3	818	36264	
2013 – 2014	4.9	26266	538447	1848	7.6	5.0	25275	503805	2.9	991	34642	
2012 – 2013	4.6	24418	535927	1205	5.2	4.8	23820	500601	1.7	598	35326	
2011 – 2012	4.4	23213	531590	938	4.2	4.6	22624	496009	1.7	589	35581	
2010 – 2011	4.2	22275	532751	873	4.1	4.4	21733	495897	1.5	542	36854	
2009 – 2010	4.1	21402	526766	525	2.5	4.3	20867	490417	1.5	535	36349	
2008 – 2009	4.0	20877	523940	1013	5.1	4.2	20334	487559	1.5	543	36381	
2007 – 2008	3.8	19864	521874	1338	7.2	4.0	19442	485115	1.1	422	36759	
2006 – 2007	3.6	18526	520138	1350	7.9	3.8	18124	483122	1.1	402	37016	
2005 – 2006	3.3	17176	521365	2332	15.7	3.5	16804	483482	1.0	372	37883	
2004 – 2005	2.9	14844	517050	-608	-3.9	3.1	14606	478319	0.6	238	38731	
2003 – 2004	3.0	15452	520803	1276	9.0	3.2	15238	481226	0.5	214	39577	
2002 – 2003	2.7	14176	523721	na	na	2.9	13961	482210	0.5	215	41511	
2001 – 2002 ²	na	na	na	na	na	2.8	13251	481123	na	na	na	
2000 – 2001	2.2	11660	535507	1389	13.5	2.3	11248	492022	0.9	412	43485	
1999 – 2000	1.9	10271	530811	111	12.1	2.1	10120	485569	0.3	151	45242	
1998 – 1999	1.7	9160	532462	967	11.8	1.8	8969	486860	0.4	191	45602	
1997 – 1998	1.5	8193	533288	719	9.6	1.7	8044	486906	0.3	149	46382	
1996 – 1997	1.4	7474	537090	628	9.2	1.5	7304	490042	0.4	170	47048	
1995 – 1996	1.3	6846	537300	1217	21.6	1.4	6663	490397	0.4	183	46903	
1994 – 1995	1.1	5629	533522	895	18.9	1.1	5477	486395	0.3	152	47127	
1993 – 1994	0.9	4734	528313	346	7.9	1.0	4575	480780	0.3	159	47533	
1992 – 1993	0.8	4388	525499	na	na	0.9	4240	478217	0.3	148	47282	

¹Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade for 1992 – 1993 through 2014 – 2015, for 2015 – 2016 data are for Kindergarten through 12th grade, Iowa Department of Education. ²Nonpublic school data for 2001 – 2002 unavailable.

Figure 3. Percent English Language Learners by School Type, School Years 1992-1993 to 2015-2016, Iowa

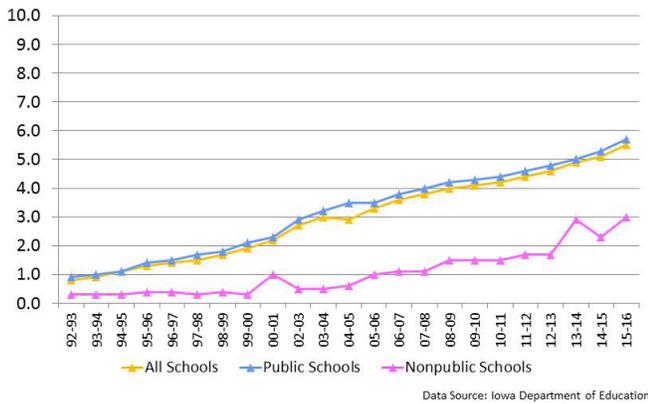


Figure 4. Percent Distribution of English Language Learner Students by Grade, Selected School Years 1992 - 1993 to 2015 - 2016

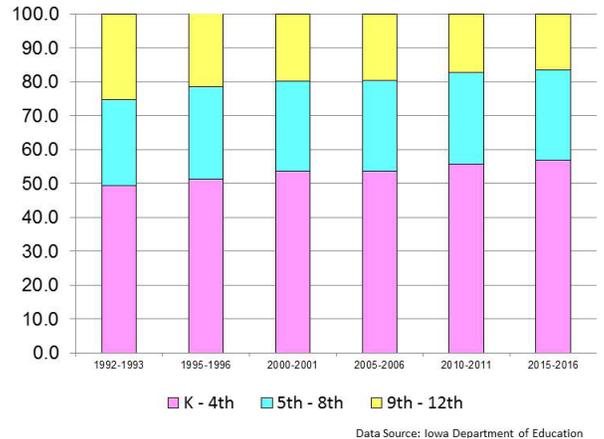


Table 2. Percent of English Language Learner (ELL) Students by Grade, All Schools, 2005 – 2006 and 2015 – 2016.

County	2015 – 2016			2005 – 2006			County	2015 – 2016			2005 – 2006		
	Grades K-4	Grades 5-8	Grades 9-12	Grades K-4	Grades 5-8	Grades 9-12		Grades K-4	Grades 5-8	Grades 9-12	Grades K-4	Grades 5-8	Grades 9-12
Adair	0.0	100.0	0.0	33.3	33.3	33.3	Jefferson	33.9	30.6	35.5	40.5	35.7	23.8
Adams	0.0	100.0	0.0	25.0	75.0	0.0	Johnson	57.1	27.2	15.7	41.8	31.6	26.5
Allamakee	54.6	26.7	18.8	68.0	18.0	14.0	Jones	58.1	32.3	9.7	100.0	0.0	0.0
Appanoose	37.5	37.5	25.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	Keokuk	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Audubon	33.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	Kossuth	52.9	35.3	11.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Benton	68.4	21.1	10.5	100.0	0.0	0.0	Lee	81.3	18.8	0.0	75.0	25.0	0.0
Black Hawk	58.4	25.7	15.9	60.4	18.8	20.7	Linn	54.1	26.8	19.1	53.7	21.2	25.1
Boone	54.5	24.2	21.2	70.6	26.5	2.9	Louisa	53.2	24.8	22.0	57.8	32.2	10.0
Bremer	60.2	35.3	4.5	87.9	3.0	9.1	Lucas	61.6	25.6	12.8	51.4	18.1	30.6
Buchanan	54.9	43.4	1.8	100.0	0.0	0.0	Lyon	66.2	23.4	10.4	50.0	16.7	33.3
Buena Vista	56.5	29.6	13.9	42.1	31.8	26.1	Madison	33.3	25.0	41.7	0.0	100.0	0.0
Butler	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Mahaska	61.3	29.0	9.7	54.5	31.8	13.6
Calhoun	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Marion	49.0	32.7	18.4	81.8	9.1	9.1
Carroll	70.8	20.8	8.3	61.0	29.3	9.8	Marshall	56.3	26.8	16.9	53.7	27.0	19.4
Cass	53.1	34.4	12.5	50.0	25.0	25.0	Mills	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cedar	33.3	25.0	41.7	28.6	28.6	42.9	Mitchell	60.0	20.0	20.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Cerro Gordo	53.1	26.5	20.4	58.8	23.5	17.6	Monona	100.0	0.0	0.0	78.6	21.4	0.0
Cherokee	59.6	31.9	8.5	70.4	18.5	11.1	Monroe	40.0	40.0	20.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Chickasaw	50.0	35.7	14.3	58.3	33.3	8.3	Montgomery	56.9	27.5	15.7	73.1	11.5	15.4
Clarke	65.8	22.8	11.4	40.8	29.6	29.6	Muscatine	49.3	29.3	21.4	57.0	31.9	11.0
Clay	60.0	37.1	2.9	63.0	33.3	3.7	O'Brien	70.4	20.7	8.9	70.6	20.6	8.8
Clayton	64.3	7.1	28.6	52.9	23.5	23.5	Osceola	68.9	19.7	11.5	46.2	30.8	23.1
Clinton	60.3	28.6	11.1	52.6	15.8	31.6	Page	58.8	29.4	11.8	92.9	0.0	7.1
Crawford	45.7	33.6	20.8	64.5	17.0	18.5	Palo Alto	28.6	35.7	35.7	0.0	0.0	100.0
Dallas	63.0	24.8	12.2	63.9	20.2	15.9	Plymouth	70.0	20.0	10.0	52.6	44.3	3.1
Davis	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	25.0	Pocahontas	53.3	20.0	26.7	100.0	0.0	0.0
Decatur	100.0	0.0	0.0	73.3	20.0	6.7	Polk	55.9	26.7	17.4	53.4	28.1	18.5
Delaware	63.6	36.4	0.0	66.7	0.0	33.3	Pottawattamie	60.9	27.0	12.1	47.0	30.8	22.2
Des Moines	78.1	17.2	4.7	66.7	6.3	27.1	Poweshiek	35.0	25.0	40.0	47.5	35.0	17.5
Dickinson	50.0	33.3	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	Ringgold	71.4	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dubuque	58.6	26.9	14.5	65.2	17.4	17.4	Sac	71.4	28.6	0.0	55.9	35.3	8.8
Emmet	62.8	19.2	17.9	47.4	34.6	18.0	Scott	59.4	24.7	15.8	52.8	32.8	14.4
Fayette	64.7	29.4	5.9	0.0	71.4	28.6	Shelby	43.2	43.2	13.5	50.0	25.0	25.0
Floyd	52.6	28.9	18.4	33.3	28.6	38.1	Sioux	60.7	25.7	13.6	60.6	22.1	17.3
Franklin	69.3	23.1	7.6	62.5	26.8	10.7	Story	65.1	24.3	10.6	48.6	21.8	29.6
Fremont	27.3	36.4	36.4	37.5	50.0	12.5	Tama	62.8	23.3	14.0	65.0	18.2	16.8
Greene	50.0	50.0	0.0	42.9	28.6	28.6	Taylor	58.5	29.3	12.2	49.2	30.2	20.6
Grundy	33.3	33.3	33.3	75.0	0.0	25.0	Union	83.3	16.7	0.0	30.0	33.3	36.7
Guthrie	37.5	31.3	31.3	85.7	0.0	14.3	Van Buren	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hamilton	62.2	23.3	14.5	54.5	21.0	24.5	Wapello	53.2	28.2	18.6	53.7	26.0	20.3
Hancock	63.8	23.4	12.8	100.0	0.0	0.0	Warren	47.5	26.3	26.3	52.6	26.3	21.1
Hardin	58.2	30.9	10.9	61.4	28.1	10.5	Washington	55.6	26.1	18.3	50.0	15.2	34.8
Harrison	33.3	33.3	33.3	73.3	20.0	6.7	Wayne	40.0	20.0	40.0	33.3	41.7	25.0
Henry	57.7	29.2	13.1	51.9	29.9	18.2	Webster	49.1	30.2	20.8	43.1	37.9	19.0
Howard	60.0	30.0	10.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	Winnebago	75.0	21.9	3.1	100.0	0.0	0.0
Humboldt	52.6	35.1	12.3	71.4	28.6	0.0	Winneshiek	52.2	34.8	13.0	80.0	20.0	0.0
Ida	72.7	18.2	9.1	75.0	25.0	0.0	Woodbury	56.7	23.0	20.3	50.4	27.8	21.7
Iowa	64.4	17.8	17.8	62.7	28.0	9.3	Worth	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	50.0	50.0
Jackson	54.8	22.6	22.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	Wright	65.7	23.5	10.7	45.8	30.8	23.4
Jasper	75.0	25.0	0.0	64.7	0.0	35.3	State of Iowa	56.8	26.7	16.5	53.7	26.8	19.4

¹Iowa Department of Education

Location of ELL Students

Iowa's ELL students are not distributed evenly across the state's counties. Some of the locations of these students are large metropolitan cities while others are relatively smaller places. The locations of these students reflect the areas of Iowa where their parents and families have found jobs, homes, and communities of settlement. Locations that have industries with a relatively large immigrant workforce or occupations and opportunities for immigrants will be locations where the number or proportion of ELL students will be highest.

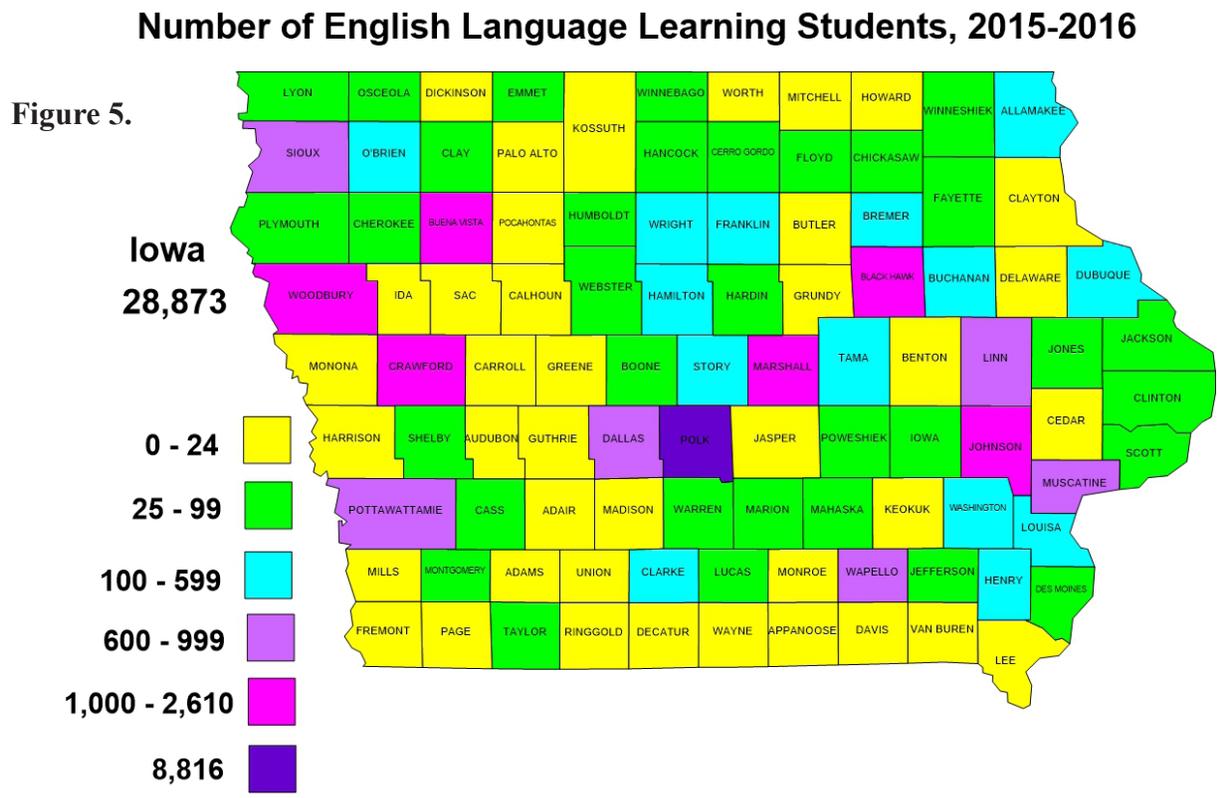
In 2015-2016 in Iowa, Polk County had 8,816 ELL students, the largest number of any county. These students were 30 percent of the state's total ELL enrollment. The second highest county, Woodbury,

had 2,610 ELL students. Five other counties (Black Hawk, Buena Vista, Crawford, Johnson, Marshall) had more than 1,000 each. Together, these seven counties had 18,154 ELL students, nearly 63 percent of the state's total (Figure 5, Table 3). Buena Vista, Crawford, and Marshall Counties are of particular note. Although their ELL student count is among the larger ones in the state, each is not nearly as large in total population as the metropolitan counties of Black Hawk, Johnson, or Woodbury.

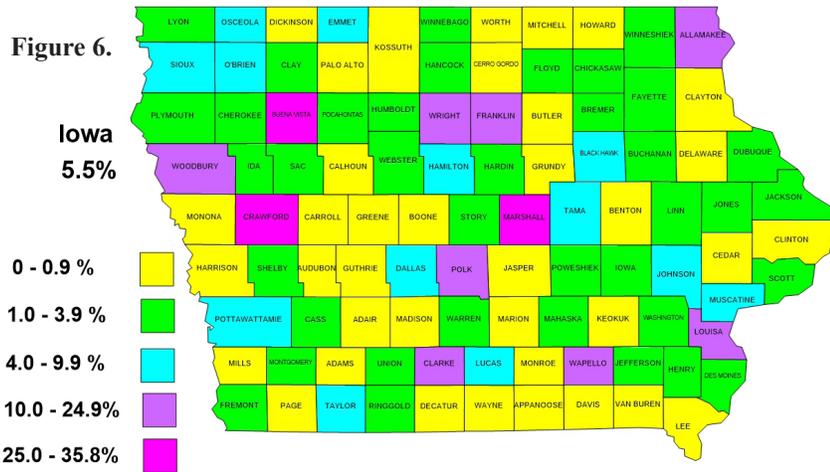
In contrast to the counties with the largest number of ELL students, half of Iowa's counties had fewer than 40 ELL students. Eighteen counties had fewer than 10 ELL students. Davis, Keokuk, and Van Buren Counties did not have

any ELL students recorded for the 2015-2016 school year (Figure 5, Table 3).

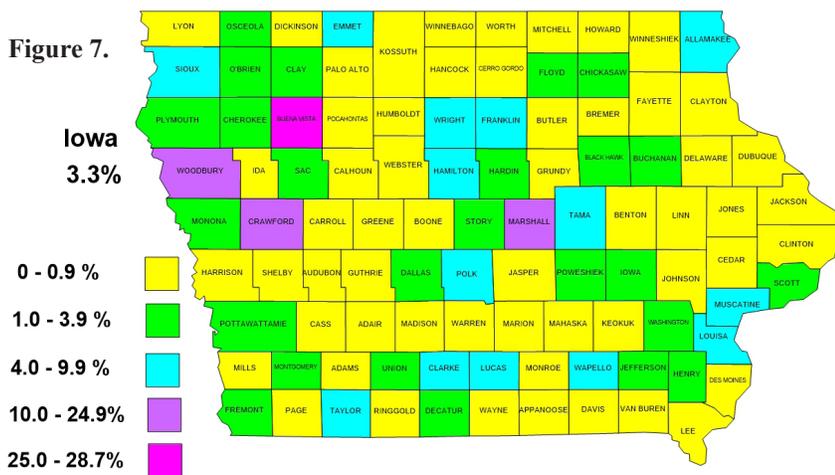
The percentage that ELL students are in a county also has an impact. The three counties noted earlier, Buena Vista, Crawford, and Marshall all had ELL percentages over 25% in 2015-2016. Crawford County's figure, 35.8%, was the highest of any county (Figure 6, Table 4). These three counties have meatpacking plants with large numbers of immigrant employees. The combination of the large plants with relatively small, nonmetropolitan communities results in the high proportion of ELL children in their schools. Other nonmetropolitan counties that had at least 10% ELL students (Allamakee, Clarke, Franklin, Louisa, Wapello, and



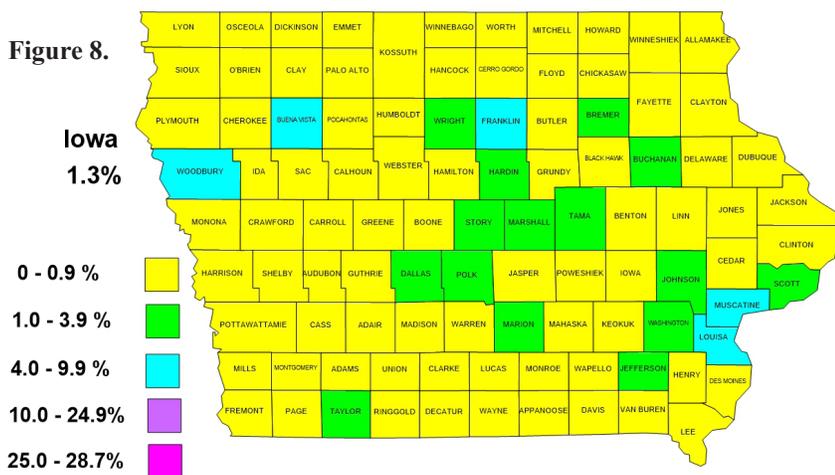
Percent English Language Learning Students, 2015-2016



Percent English Language Learning Students, 2005-2006



Percent English Language Learning Students, 1995-1996



Wright) also have food processing and other food related employment with larger numbers and proportions of immigrants in those workforces. Overall, the meatpacking and food processing plants have been one of the major driving forces in immigration into Iowa's nonmetropolitan communities and, thus, the increase in ELL students in their schools.

Iowa's metropolitan locations, especially Polk, Woodbury, and Johnson Counties, have also attracted immigrants. In these locations, there may be work opportunities in construction and services as well as educational institutions that bring faculty and students. ELL students have increased in these counties as there are job opportunities for their parents.

The 24 years of ELL student data reviewed here show the changes in the number and locations of ELL students. In the 1995-1996 school year, Iowa had 6,846 ELL students. At that time, 40 counties had no ELL students and two thirds of them had 12 or fewer. Polk (1,780) and Woodbury (1,556) Counties had the highest numbers and were the only ones above 600. None of the counties had yet reached 10% although Buena Vista County (9.6%) was close (Figure 8, Tables 3,4).

Ten years later in 2005-2006, the state's total was 17,176 and Polk County exceeded 4,800. Woodbury had increased to 2,339 ELL students and both Marshall (1,306) and Buena Vista (1,174) Counties were over 1,000. All but 10 counties had ELL students. Buena Vista County's percentage (28.7) was highest followed by Marshall (19.0), Crawford (15.0), and Woodbury (11.8) (Figure 7, Tables 3,4).

English Language Learners in Iowa: School Years 1992-1993 to 2015-2016

Table 3. Number of English Language Learner (ELL) Students,¹ All Schools, Selected School Years 1992 – 1993 to 2015 – 2016.

County	2015-2016	2010-2011	2005-2006	2000-2001	1995-1996	1992-1993	County	2015-2016	2010-2011	2005-2006	2000-2001	1995-1996	1992-1993
Adair	1	4	3	0	0	3	Jefferson	62	43	42	25	37	11
Adams	1	3	4	0	0	2	Johnson	1297	452	98	228	152	149
Allamakee	240	142	150	77	10	1	Jones	31	13	1	4	0	2
Appanoose	8	7	1	3	0	1	Keokuk	0	1	0	0	0	0
Audubon	3	0	0	0	0	0	Kossuth	17	3	0	0	6	0
Benton	19	5	6	2	0	1	Lee	16	9	4	0	0	1
Black Hawk	1164	988	786	583	95	48	Linn	932	641	259	150	128	126
Boone	33	45	34	0	21	19	Louisa	282	250	270	247	220	195
Bremer	133	66	33	80	75	65	Lucas	86	95	72	2	0	0
Buchanan	113	70	46	41	49	74	Lyon	77	12	6	2	1	0
Buena Vista	1154	1155	1174	839	410	259	Madison	12	11	1	0	0	1
Butler	2	5	0	0	0	6	Mahaska	31	31	22	16	12	15
Calhoun	1	2	0	0	1	4	Marion	49	56	33	31	74	77
Carroll	24	29	41	39	2	0	Marshall	1823	1609	1306	711	249	75
Cass	32	30	8	2	0	0	Mills	1	9	0	0	0	0
Cedar	12	8	7	2	0	0	Mitchell	10	9	1	0	0	1
Cerro Gordo	49	30	17	18	6	9	Monona	3	6	14	0	0	0
Cherokee	47	17	27	12	0	0	Monroe	10	13	2	0	4	2
Chickasaw	42	55	24	9	0	0	Montgomery	51	33	26	0	3	0
Clarke	219	158	152	71	0	0	Muscatine	672	658	589	550	599	499
Clay	35	12	27	0	0	0	O'Brien	135	76	34	23	15	4
Clayton	14	8	17	0	0	0	Osceola	61	49	26	0	0	0
Clinton	63	36	19	6	8	5	Page	17	25	14	13	12	5
Crawford	1290	1122	524	20	4	2	Palo Alto	14	2	1	0	0	0
Dallas	847	558	446	215	92	47	Plymouth	90	95	97	21	3	0
Davis	0	0	4	0	0	0	Pocahontas	15	6	1	0	0	0
Decatur	1	10	15	5	0	3	Polk	8816	6393	4843	3181	1780	1078
Delaware	11	8	3	0	0	1	Pottawattamie	655	777	555	101	53	3
Des Moines	64	30	48	29	17	21	Poweshiek	40	53	40	8	12	20
Dickinson	18	12	0	1	2	0	Ringgold	7	3	0	0	0	0
Dubuque	324	203	92	62	44	45	Sac	21	12	34	0	5	0
Emmet	78	103	133	101	0	30	Scott	631	566	436	483	468	463
Fayette	34	19	7	7	7	12	Shelby	37	11	8	0	0	0
Floyd	38	48	42	17	0	3	Sioux	708	470	371	129	27	6
Franklin	251	153	112	106	94	64	Story	301	278	216	156	121	15
Fremont	11	12	16	3	5	8	Tama	215	153	137	58	68	76
Greene	4	9	14	16	1	5	Taylor	41	51	63	58	37	12
Grundy	6	8	4	13	2	0	Union	24	33	30	0	0	0
Guthrie	16	13	7	0	0	0	Van Buren	0	1	0	0	0	2
Hamilton	193	96	143	37	21	4	Wapello	602	491	443	109	9	17
Hancock	47	50	1	1	1	3	Warren	99	37	19	13	30	12
Hardin	55	33	57	77	53	19	Washington	142	99	92	142	45	25
Harrison	9	13	15	2	3	0	Wayne	5	8	12	0	0	0
Henry	130	111	77	65	16	18	Webster	53	46	58	34	22	20
Howard	10	11	1	226	0	0	Winnebago	32	25	7	42	0	0
Humboldt	57	46	7	0	0	0	Winneshiek	46	45	5	9	4	29
Ida	11	4	4	0	1	0	Woodbury	2610	2705	2339	2172	1556	646
Iowa	45	82	75	3	5	6	Worth	2	0	2	5	2	0
Jackson	31	8	0	0	0	0	Wright	327	155	107	134	42	7
Jasper	20	19	17	13	5	6	State of Iowa	28873	22275	17176	11761	6846	4389

¹Iowa Department of Education

Table 4. Percent of English Language Learner (ELL) Students,¹ All Schools, Selected School Years 1992 – 1993 to 2015 – 2016.

County	2015-2016	2010-2011	2005-2006	2000-2001	1995-1996	1992-1993	County	2015-2016	2010-2011	2005-2006	2000-2001	1995-1996	1992-1993
Adair	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	Jefferson	3.4	2.4	2.1	1.1	1.6	0.5
Adams	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	Johnson	7.1	2.7	0.7	1.6	1.1	1.2
Allamakee	10.5	6.0	5.9	2.8	0.3	0.0	Jones	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Appanoose	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	Keokuk	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Audubon	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Kossuth	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Benton	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Lee	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Black Hawk	5.9	4.9	3.9	2.9	0.5	0.2	Linn	2.4	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.4
Boone	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.5	0.4	Louisa	12.4	9.1	9.2	8.3	7.4	6.9
Bremer	2.2	1.2	0.7	1.5	1.2	1.1	Lucas	6.7	6.4	4.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Buchanan	3.7	2.3	1.5	1.2	1.4	2.1	Lyon	3.6	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0
Buena Vista	26.7	26.2	28.7	20.0	9.6	7.0	Madison	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Butler	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	Mahaska	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4
Calhoun	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	Marion	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.2
Carroll	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.0	0.0	Marshall	26.7	22.9	19.0	10.2	3.6	1.1
Cass	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	Mills	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cedar	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	Mitchell	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cerro Gordo	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	Monona	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cherokee	2.9	1.0	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	Monroe	0.9	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1
Chickasaw	3.7	2.3	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	Montgomery	3.2	1.8	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.0
Clarke	13.1	8.8	8.8	3.8	0.0	0.0	Muscatine	9.4	8.4	7.6	7.1	7.7	6.5
Clay	1.4	0.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	O'Brien	5.2	2.8	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.1
Clayton	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	Osceola	8.0	6.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Clinton	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	Page	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2
Crawford	35.8	32.3	15.0	0.7	0.1	0.1	Palo Alto	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dallas	4.7	3.8	3.8	2.4	1.2	0.7	Plymouth	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.4	0.1	0.0
Davis	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	Pocahontas	1.5	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decatur	0.1	0.9	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.2	Polk	11.2	8.4	6.9	4.7	2.8	1.8
Delaware	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Pottawattamie	4.1	4.6	3.2	0.5	0.3	0.0
Des Moines	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.3	Poweshiek	1.5	1.8	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.6
Dickinson	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	Ringgold	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dubuque	1.9	1.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	Sac	1.3	0.7	1.9	0.0	0.2	0.0
Emmet	4.6	5.8	7.5	5.1	0.0	1.3	Scott	2.1	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5
Fayette	1.0	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	Shelby	1.9	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Floyd	1.8	1.8	1.5	0.5	0.0	0.1	Sioux	9.9	6.7	5.6	1.9	0.4	0.1
Franklin	17.5	8.0	5.9	5.6	4.4	3.1	Story	2.8	2.5	2.0	1.4	1.1	0.1
Fremont	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	Tama	8.9	6.0	5.1	1.7	2.2	2.1
Greene	0.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.3	Taylor	4.4	4.9	6.0	4.7	2.8	0.9
Grundy	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	Union	1.2	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Guthrie	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	Van Buren	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Hamilton	7.4	3.2	4.7	1.2	0.7	0.1	Wapello	10.1	7.8	6.7	1.6	0.1	0.3
Hancock	2.9	2.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	Warren	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2
Hardin	1.9	1.1	1.8	2.4	1.5	0.5	Washington	3.9	2.5	2.3	3.8	1.2	0.7
Harrison	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	Wayne	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Henry	3.9	3.0	2.1	1.7	0.4	0.5	Webster	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.3
Howard	0.6	0.6	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	Winnebago	1.4	1.0	0.3	1.5	0.0	0.0
Humboldt	3.5	2.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	Winneshiek	1.5	1.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.9
Ida	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	Woodbury	13.4	13.4	11.8	10.5	7.6	3.3
Iowa	1.8	2.8	2.5	0.1	0.2	0.2	Worth	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.0
Jackson	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Wright	13.3	6.1	4.0	4.6	1.3	0.2
Jasper	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	State of Iowa	5.5	4.2	3.3	2.1	1.3	0.8

¹Iowa Department of Education

First Languages of ELL Students

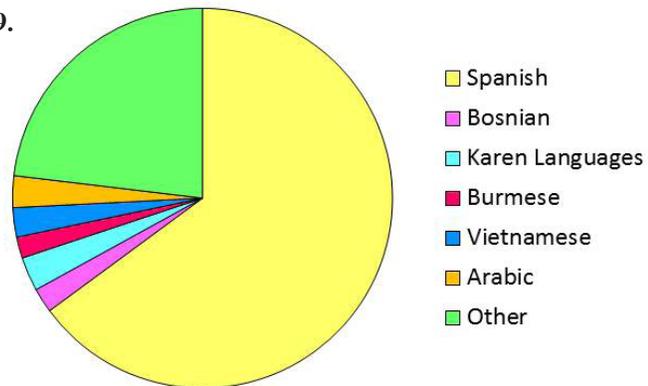
In any given school year, there can be 150 or more separate languages represented among the first language of the ELL students in Iowa. Although this is a significant number of individual languages, many of them have fewer than four or five students statewide. Some may have only one student. There are languages, however, that are the first language of large numbers of the state's ELL students. Spanish is the most notable of these. In 2015-2016, Spanish was the first language for 18,312 (64.9%) of Iowa's ELL students. Other languages with large numbers of students that year were Bosnian (592), Karen languages (825), Vietnamese (699), and Arabic (763) but the numbers for these are significantly smaller than the Spanish total (Figure 9, Table 5).

The diversity and scope of these languages gives us insight into the immigration patterns, heritage, and home countries of the parents and families of the ELL students. Languages that have increased numbers in recent years such as Nepali, Burmese, and Somali, suggest groups that are more recent immigrants to Iowa. Languages such as Bosnian and Vietnamese represent immigrant groups with a longer history of refugee and immigrant settlement in Iowa (Table 5). In addition, after they are settled in the U.S., many families continue to use their native language when speaking at home even though they may know English. In many cases, the children in these families, even though born in the U.S., learn and use their parent's native language as their first language.

There are year-to-year fluctuations in the number of students with various languages. Since the 2008-2009 school year, several language groups have increased among ELL students. These include languages from Africa, Micronesia, and

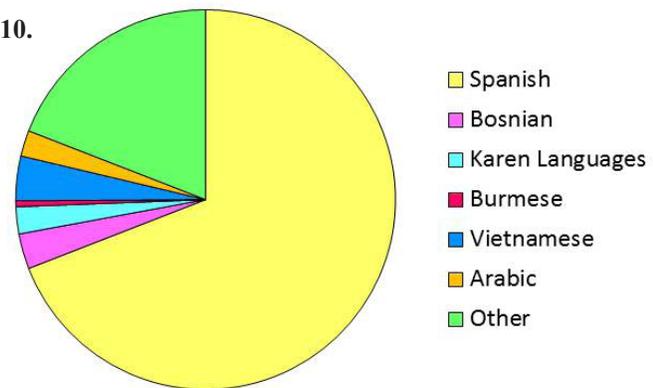
First Language of ELL Students, 2015 - 2016

Figure 9.



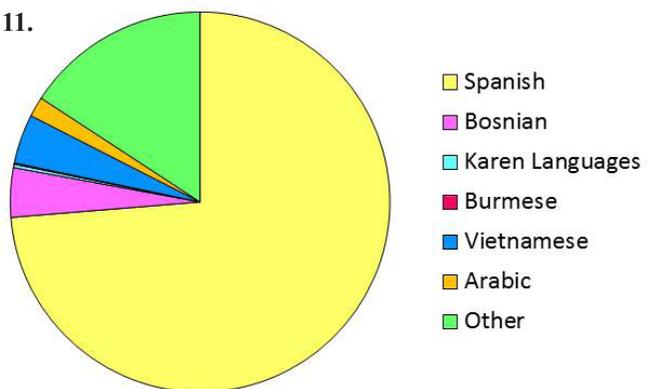
First Language of ELL Students, 2012 - 2013

Figure 10.



First Language of ELL Students, 2008 - 2009

Figure 11.



languages related to Myanmar and Bhutan (Burmese, Karen, Nepali) (Figures 9-11, Table 5). In many cases, these are world regions stricken with civil wars and violence and have refugees that have resettled in Iowa.

Among the counties, there are significant variations in the pattern of first languages of ELL students. For some counties, students with Spanish comprise almost all of their ELL students (Tables 6,7). Other counties have a varied set

of languages represented in their schools. Polk County, with the city of Des Moines, has, perhaps, the greatest diversity as well as high numbers among its ELL students. Several other metropolitan counties (Black Hawk, Dallas, Johnson, Linn) also have many languages represented (Table 6).

There are several unique ELL language situations to note. Bremer and Buchanan Counties, both relatively small, together have almost all of the ELL students in

Iowa with German as their first language. These students are not from immigrant families but rather are from Amish and other religious families where they speak German at home. Lucas County, another relatively small county, has a relatively large number of ELL students with Ukrainian or Russian as their first language. The community of Chariton in Lucas County has been a settlement area for families from those countries for more than fifteen years.

Table 5. Number of ELL Students¹ by Selected First Language, School Years 2008-2009 to 2015-2016, Iowa.

First Language	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011	2009-2010	2008-2009
Total	28218	27839	26209	24556	23036	19580	21274	20774
Europe, Eastern Europe								
Spanish	18312	18719	17840	16968	16171	13992	15552	15314
French	250	185	110	84	71	60	49	58
German, Other Germanic	221	246	239	261	180	125	171	164
Portuguese	56	42	24	25	24	17	27	24
Bosnian	592	685	717	748	807	729	828	880
Serbian	12	12	15	15	14	17	30	52
Albanian	54	51	47	43	40	29	25	23
Ukrainian	39	55	68	59	57	55	58	55
Russian	142	169	181	197	211	182	202	213
Asia, Southeast Asia								
Chinese	349	412	356	348	301	273	288	263
Japanese	41	53	48	38	33	31	34	32
Korean	60	67	104	128	114	116	130	135
Hindi	60	63	51	57	42	28	35	48
Telugu	73	86	56	62	40	25	39	33
Urdu	61	73	54	50	56	55	61	43
Tagalog	65	76	77	76	67	65	55	59
Nepali	300	235	174	122	95	76	55	13
Karen languages	825	677	598	577	428	197	122	55
Burmese	512	374	227	130	85	73	44	11
Vietnamese	699	895	916	921	897	797	823	871
Lao	244	310	320	312	333	293	360	425
Hmong	105	118	152	138	103	70	51	46
Mon-Khmer (Other)	29	36	40	43	51	47	56	
Micronesia								
Pohnpeian	129	118	89	63	72	52	40	21
Marshallese	297	243	190	166	149	113	121	106
Chuukese	50	56	51	51	44	34	28	20
Africa								
Arabic	763	759	663	534	472	369	383	349
Dinka	105	136	118	120	106	85	90	80
Nilo-Saharan (Other)	244	111	81	86	104	103	115	
Nuer								120
Kinyarwanda	55	39	27	19	16	21	19	5
Rundi	115	160	143	133	136	137	100	61
Oromo	61	39	32	17	8	15	18	16
Somali	375	386	339	230	190	147	150	96
Tigrinya	75	62	50	34	23	10	6	2
Swahili	403	376	337	234	202	148	136	106
Other								
Creoles and pidgins, English and French based	87	159	132	137	128	95	82	87

¹Iowa Department of Education

There are other ELL situations to note as well. Almost all the ELL students with families from Bosnia are in Polk, Black Hawk, or Dallas Counties. These students would have family backgrounds that likely stem from Bosnian refugee settlement in Iowa during the 1990s. A large proportion of the state's Marshallese ELL students are in Dubuque and Black Hawk Counties and a large portion of the families of ELL students with first languages of Burmese, Karan, or Nepali have settled in Polk County. Students with Chinese as a first

Figure 12. Percent of English Language Learning Students with Spanish as First Language, 2015-2016

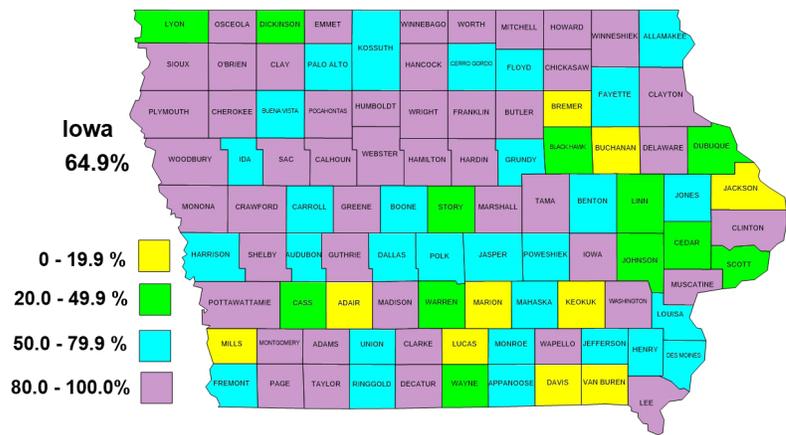


Table 6. Number of ELL Students by Selected First Language,¹ School Year 2015-2016, Iowa.

County	Total Number	Spanish	German	Russian, Ukrainian	Bosnian	Marshallese	Arabic	Somali	Swahili	Vietnamese	Burmese	Karan Languages	Nepali	Chinese
Adair	1													
Adams	1	1												
Allamakee	240	188		2				48						
Appanoose	8	6												
Audubon	3	2												
Benton	19	10												2
Black Hawk	1164	439		3	221	96	17		2	25	96	96		13
Boone	33	20		2							1			1
Bremer	133	25	101											2
Buchanan	113	6	107											
Buena Vista	1154	783		1						13	6	79		1
Butler	2	2												
Calhoun	1	1												
Carroll	24	15					3							1
Cass	32	11												
Cedar	12	3	2											2
Cerro Gordo	49	37		1	1					3				2
Cherokee	47	40												4
Chickasaw	42	42												
Clarke	219	191												1
Clay	35	31												1
Clayton	14	13												
Clinton	63	51		3			1							2
Crawford	1290	1215		2			6							
Dallas	847	486		6	43		66		26	21	2	4	4	14
Davis	0													
Decatur	1	1												
Delaware	11	10												1
Des Moines	64	34					15			1			1	6
Dickinson	18	8		2										2
Dubuque	324	129		1	6	147	8			1				14
Emmet	78	76												2
Fayette	34	24					1	1						1
Floyd	38	23												
Franklin	251	246												
Fremont	11	8												
Greene	4	4												
Grundy	6	3												
Guthrie	16	14				2								
Hamilton	193	168												1
Hancock	47	45												
Hardin	55	50								1				
Harrison	9	5												1
Henry	130	91								18				2
Howard	10	10												
Humboldt	57	54												2
Ida	11	8				3								
Iowa	45	44												1
Jackson	31	2												1
Jasper	20	10		2			2							

¹Iowa Department of Education

language are spread across many counties in Iowa rather than having a concentration in just a handful of counties as many other languages do (Table 6).

Even with the increased diversity of languages in recent years, it is still the case that Spanish remains the dominant first language of ELL Students. Since the 2008-2009 school year, nearly two-thirds or more of all ELL students in Iowa have had Spanish as their first language. For many counties, 80% or more of the

ELL students have Spanish as their first language (Figure 12, Table 7).

In general, most areas and counties of Iowa have experienced gradual increases in number and percentage of ELL students in the last two decades. ELL students are located across more counties and communities in Iowa than in the recent past. Although statewide the percentage of ELL students remains low, some specific communities and areas have large numbers or percentages of ELL students

in their schools. There is greater diversity in the first languages of ELL students than in the past, but Spanish remains the dominant first language for ELL students in Iowa. The locations of ELL students reflect the areas of Iowa where their parents and families have found jobs, homes, and communities of settlement. Many are locations that have industries with a relatively large immigrant workforce but immigrant families now have a presence across almost all areas of Iowa.

Table 6. Number of ELL Students by Selected First Language,¹ School Year 2015-2016, Iowa (continued).

County	Total Number	Spanish	German	Russian, Ukrainian	Bosnian	Marshallse	Arabic	Somali	Swahili	Vietnamese	Burmese	Karan Languages	Nepali	Chinese
Jefferson	62	33									1		4	14
Johnson	1297	544		7	2		223	1	146	19	1		2	58
Jones	31	23												7
Keokuk	0													
Kossuth	17	11												2
Lee	16	15												
Linn	932	321		5	8	15	50	15	99	39	2	6	52	20
Louisa	282	215									60			
Lucas	86		2	70										1
Lyon	77	36												
Madison	12	10												1
Mahaska	31	17								1				
Marion	49	9		15										4
Marshall	1823	1621			5	3	7		1	2	62	73	1	3
Mills	1													
Mitchell	10	9												
Monona	3	3												
Monroe	10	6		1										
Montgomery	51	49												
Muscatine	672	597		1			2							6
O'Brien	135	117					1							
Osceola	61	59												
Page	17	14												1
Palo Alto	14	11												1
Plymouth	90	82								3				1
Pocahontas	15	13												2
Polk	8816	4439	1	25	299		300	232	118	258	279	558	221	51
Pottawattamie	655	618		1			2	4		16	2			
Poweshiek	40	28		1										
Ringgold	7	4												
Sac	21	17				1								
Scott	631	292	6	3	3		19		4	112			8	19
Shelby	37	34												1
Sioux	708	681		3										6
Story	301	131		4			26		2	4				47
Tama	215	210												
Taylor	41	41												
Union	24	18												6
Van Buren	0													
Wapello	602	512	1	1	1	30	9			3				2
Warren	99	26		12	1		5	22	1	3			7	1
Washington	142	125		3										7
Wayne	5	1		4										
Webster	53	47												1
Winneshiek	32	32												
Winneshiek	46	42						1						1
Woodbury	2610	2200	1		2			51	4	156				4
Worth	2	2												
Wright	327	312												1
State of Iowa	28873	18312	221	181	592	297	763	375	403	699	512	825	300	349

¹Iowa Department of Education

English Language Learners in Iowa: School Years 1992-1993 to 2015-2016

Table 7. Number and Percent of English Language Learner (ELL) Students with Spanish as Their First Language,¹ Selected School Years, Iowa.

County	2015 – 2016		2012 – 2013		2008 – 2009		County	2015 – 2016		2012 – 2013		2008 – 2009	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Adair	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	60.0	Jefferson	33	53.2	31	63.3	27	69.2
Adams	1	100.0	2	40.0	0	0.0	Johnson	544	41.9	189	37.4	212	45.2
Allamakee	188	78.3	154	85.6	108	95.6	Jones	23	74.2	9	56.3	5	71.4
Appanoose	6	75.0	4	36.4	0	0.0	Keokuk	0	0.0	4	100.0	0	0.0
Audubon	2	66.7	3	100.0	1	100.0	Kossuth	11	64.7	5	83.3	6	100.0
Benton	10	52.6	12	80.0	3	50.0	Lee	15	93.8	3	50.0	6	85.7
Black Hawk	439	37.7	479	41.8	377	44.4	Linn	321	34.4	273	39.6	160	34.8
Boone	20	60.6	19	55.9	43	67.2	Louisa	215	76.2	219	89.0	255	99.6
Bremer	25	18.8	10	7.8	3	3.8	Lucas	0	0.0	1	0.9	0	0.0
Buchanan	6	5.3	7	5.7	3	4.4	Lyon	36	46.8	17	100.0	16	100.0
Buena Vista	783	67.9	765	67.2	1107	81.0	Madison	10	83.3	18	100.0	7	58.3
Butler	2	100.0	2	50.0	10	76.9	Mahaska	17	54.8	12	63.2	16	51.6
Calhoun	1	100.0	0	0.0	3	100.0	Marion	9	18.4	12	20.0	5	9.6
Carroll	15	62.5	23	88.5	33	94.3	Marshall	1621	88.9	1574	87.5	1383	96.3
Cass	11	34.4	10	25.0	3	15.0	Mills	0	0.0	4	66.7	5	83.3
Cedar	3	25.0	3	30.0	5	83.3	Mitchell	9	90.0	6	85.7	3	50.0
Cerro Gordo	37	75.5	21	51.2	24	51.1	Monona	3	100.0	2	40.0	2	66.7
Cherokee	40	85.1	27	81.8	23	100.0	Monroe	6	60.0	12	80.0	9	100.0
Chickasaw	42	100.0	63	92.6	39	88.6	Montgomery	49	96.1	41	100.0	32	100.0
Clarke	191	87.2	145	96.7	133	95.0	Muscatine	597	88.8	579	89.4	632	96.0
Clay	31	88.6	24	96.0	21	84.0	O'Brien	117	86.7	86	81.1	53	91.4
Clayton	13	92.9	6	75.0	5	83.3	Osceola	59	96.7	54	94.7	34	100.0
Clinton	51	81.0	48	82.8	44	88.0	Page	14	82.4	12	60.0	22	71.0
Crawford	1215	94.2	1252	97.8	910	98.6	Palo Alto	11	78.6	2	50.0	0	0.0
Dallas	486	57.4	421	67.9	407	75.2	Plymouth	82	91.1	61	91.0	89	92.7
Davis	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	Pocahontas	13	86.7	12	92.3	2	50.0
Decatur	1	100.0	4	66.7	5	50.0	Polk	4439	50.4	4061	55.6	3460	59.9
Delaware	10	90.9	4	36.4	0	0.0	Pottawattamie	618	94.4	698	93.3	763	97.6
Des Moines	34	53.1	20	58.8	20	66.7	Poweshiek	28	70.0	34	72.3	18	66.7
Dickinson	8	44.4	12	48.0	1	50.0	Ringgold	4	57.1	4	66.7	5	100.0
Dubuque	129	39.8	108	43.7	85	49.4	Sac	17	81.0	17	94.4	25	96.2
Emmet	76	97.4	93	97.9	78	100.0	Scott	292	46.3	346	56.3	272	52.9
Fayette	24	70.6	13	50.0	5	45.5	Shelby	34	91.9	15	93.8	16	100.0
Floyd	23	60.5	31	48.4	21	43.8	Sioux	681	96.2	544	97.7	416	94.8
Franklin	246	98.0	232	100.0	131	98.5	Story	131	43.5	113	36.2	84	34.1
Fremont	8	72.7	11	100.0	25	100.0	Tama	210	97.7	194	97.0	153	98.1
Greene	4	100.0	5	100.0	18	94.7	Taylor	41	100.0	49	100.0	32	100.0
Grundy	3	50.0	10	90.9	5	100.0	Union	18	75.0	21	80.8	34	87.2
Guthrie	14	87.5	11	73.3	15	83.3	Van Buren	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	60.0
Hamilton	168	87.0	92	81.4	72	61.0	Wapello	512	85.0	447	91.8	451	96.6
Hancock	45	95.7	63	98.4	19	100.0	Warren	26	26.3	20	41.7	13	41.9
Hardin	50	90.9	56	90.3	36	81.8	Washington	125	88.0	97	92.4	90	94.7
Harrison	5	55.6	12	70.6	14	100.0	Wayne	1	20.0	1	14.3	0	0.0
Henry	91	70.0	72	66.7	74	72.5	Webster	47	88.7	56	86.2	35	66.0
Howard	10	100.0	3	75.0	5	100.0	Winnebago	32	100.0	32	91.4	13	72.2
Humboldt	54	94.7	50	100.0	25	100.0	Winneshiek	42	91.3	40	81.6	29	85.3
Ida	8	72.7	11	91.7	12	100.0	Woodbury	2200	84.3	2238	84.1	2224	85.2
Iowa	44	97.8	55	100.0	65	95.6	Worth	2	100.0	2	100.0	0	0.0
Jackson	2	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	Wright	312	95.4	228	100.0	153	98.7
Jasper	10	50.0	5	41.7	5	33.3	State of Iowa	18312	64.9	16968	69.1	15314	73.7

¹Iowa Department of Education

Data Source and Notes:

¹The data on English Language Learner (ELL) students presented in this report come from the Iowa Department of Education. The Department of Education website states: "According to Iowa Code section 280.4, a limited English proficient student is defined as follows: "a student's language background is in a language other than English, and the student's proficiency in English is such that the probability of the student's academic success in an English-only classroom is below that of an academically successful peer with an English language background." The term English Language Learners (ELL) will replace the term Limited English Proficient (LEP)." Programs for ELL in Iowa in the past have also been known as Limited English Proficiency (LEP) or English as a Second Language (ESL).

<https://www.educateiowa.gov/education-statistics> and <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/learner-supports/english-language-learners>

.... and justice for all

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