



# FAST FACTS



OFFICE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION  
(OELA)

1 of 2

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS (WHIEEAA)

## English Learner (EL) Students Who Are Black

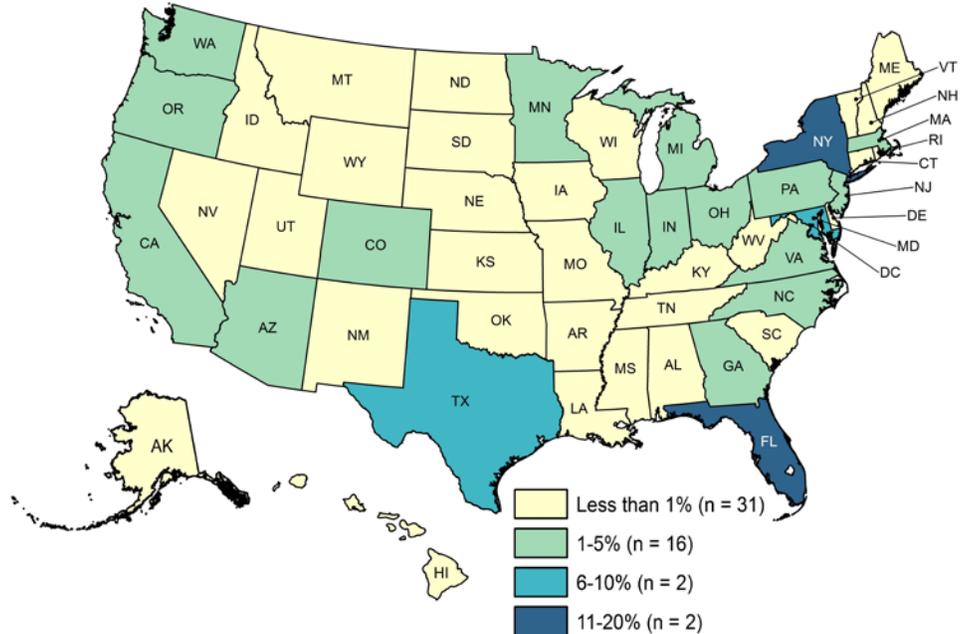
This fact sheet uses data from the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS) and applies the following definitions:

- An “English learner” student
  - is ages 5 to 18,
  - attends school,
  - lives in a home where English is not the primary language spoken, and
  - reports speaking English “well,” “not very well,” or “not at all.”
- The 2013 ACS defines individuals who are Black as those whose racial self-identification included “black, African-American, negro, or mulatto, regardless of what additional race(s) the person reported, if any.” These individuals can be “Black alone or in combination” with other races, regardless of Hispanic origin.

- An “English proficient” student
  - is ages 5 to 18,
  - attends school,
  - lives in a home where English is spoken, or
  - reports speaking English “very well.”

These definitions represent the respondent’s perceptions of his or her own English-speaking ability (Gambino, et al., 2014). The definitions may not correspond with those used by state education agencies and local education agencies for reporting purposes.

Percentage of EL Students Who Are Black, by State, Including DC: 2013



Note: Data are for both ELs born in the US and born in another country.

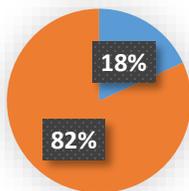
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.

### Fact

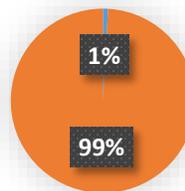
Eleven to 20 percent of the EL student population in New York and Florida are Black.

### Percentage of EL Students Who Are Black, by Birthplace: 2013

Percentage of Foreign-Born Black Students Who Are EL



Percentage of US-Born Black Students Who Are EL



### Fact

Eighteen percent of foreign-born Black students are ELs, compared with nearly 1 percent of those who were born in the U.S.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.



Top 15 Languages Spoken At Home by EL Students Who Are Black: 2013

Language	Number of Speakers	Percentage
Spanish	53,924	40.0%
French Creole	24,445	18.1%
French	10,175	7.5%
Cushite	9,591	7.1%
Kru, Ibo, Yoruba	8,332	6.2%
Bantu	3,995	3.0%
Amharic	3,756	2.8%
Swahili	3,221	2.4%
German	2,990	2.2%
Portuguese	2,087	1.5%
Fulani	2,070	1.5%
Vietnamese	1,860	1.4%
Arabic	1,467	1.1%
Other specified African languages	1,180	0.9%
Japanese	931	0.7%

**Fact**

Forty percent of EL students who are Black speak Spanish at home. Approximately 18 percent of EL students who are Black speak French Creole at home.

Note: Data are for both ELs born in the US and those born in another country.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.

Top 15 Birthplaces of Foreign-Born EL Students Who Are Black: 2013

Country	Number of ELs	Percentage
Haiti	13,241	26.0%
Dominican Republic	4,815	9.5%
Kenya	3,489	6.9%
Ethiopia	2,671	5.3%
Africa, not specified	2,459	4.8%
Somalia	2,074	4.1%
Mexico	2,032	4.0%
Congo	1,712	3.4%
Tanzania	1,505	3.0%
Western Africa, not specified	1,312	2.6%
Togo	1,169	2.3%
Ghana	1,133	2.2%
El Salvador	1,057	2.1%
Nigeria	1,019	2.0%
Democratic Republic of Congo (Zaire)	973	1.9%

**Fact**

Over a quarter (26 percent) of foreign-born EL students who are Black were born in Haiti.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.

References cited: Gambino, Christine P., Yesenia D. Acosta, and Elizabeth M. Grieco. English-Speaking Ability of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States: 2012. American Community Survey Reports, ACS-26. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC. 2014.

LEADERSHIP

**Libia Gil**  
 Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director  
 Office of English Language Acquisition  
<http://ed.gov/oela>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ED.OELA>

**David J. Johns**  
 Executive Director  
 White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for  
 African Americans  
<http://www.ed.gov/edblogs/whieeaa/>

National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition  
<http://ncela.ed.gov>  
<http://ncela.ed.gov/nexus/>