

Graduation Outcomes of 2012–2013 Ninth-Grade English Language Learners

Purpose

This report illustrates the 2015–2016 graduation rate for a cohort of 2012–2013 9th-grade students who had ever been categorized as an English language learner (ever-ELL) as well as reasons some ever-ELLs in that cohort left Austin Independent School District (AISD) without graduating. In 2012–2013, 31,647 students enrolled at AISD were identified as an ever-ELL, representing 37% of the AISD population. Of those, a total of 2,560 ever-ELLs were enrolled in the 9th grade in 2012–2013 and included in this analysis.

How many ever-ELLs were ELLs or former ELLs entering 9th grade?

Of the 2012–2013 9th-grade ever-ELL students in this analysis, 76% were reclassified and no longer labeled ELLs by the time they entered 9th grade (Table 1); specifically, 25% were reclassified in elementary school, 51% were reclassified in middle school, and 24%, continued to be labeled ELLs when entering 9th grade. It should be noted that students may have entered AISD in any academic year up to 2012–2013.

Table 1

Fifty-one percent of students were reclassified as no longer ELL in middle school.

ELL status	<i>n</i>	%
Reclassified in elementary school	642	25%
Reclassified in middle school	1,299	51%
ELLs in high school	619	24%
Total	2,560	100%

Source. AISD student records

Note. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

How many students graduated, continued, or left AISD by the 2015–2016 academic year?

The federal graduation rate amongst AISD ELLs has increased each academic year since 2007–2008, with a graduation rate of 79.9% by 2016–2017 ¹. The results of the current report differs from the federal graduation rate as it illustrates outcomes amongst a cohort of students who were: 1) ever labeled as an ELL and 2) enrolled as a 9th-grader in AISD in 2012–2013. Table 2 displays student graduation outcomes in 2015–2016, when students were expected to graduate. An approximately equivalent number of the 2012–2013 9th-grade ever-ELL students graduated or left AISD by this academic year. While 48% graduated, another 49% left the district. The remaining 2% of students continued at AISD but did not graduate.

¹ <https://www.austinisd.org/articles/austin-isd-graduation-rate-exceeds-90-percent>

Table 2

Forty-eight percent of students graduated by 2015–2016.

Graduated		Continued		Left district		Total	
<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
1,232	48%	63	2%	1,265	49%	2,560	100%

Source. AISD student records

Note. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Examined by ELL status, students who were reclassified in middle school had the lowest graduation rate (36%), while students who were reclassified in elementary school had the highest (70%) (Table 3). Students who were reclassified in middle school had the highest rate of leaving AISD (62%), compared with students who were reclassified in elementary school (29%) and students who were ELLs upon entering high school (44%).

Table 3

Graduation, Continued, and Left District Rates, by ELL Status

ELL status	Graduated		Continued		Left district		Total	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Reclassified in elementary school	449	70%	8	1%	185	29%	642	100%
Reclassified in middle school	463	36%	26	2%	810	62%	1,299	100%
ELLs in high school	320	52%	29	5%	270	44%	619	100%

Source. AISD student records

Note. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Why did ever-ELLs leave AISD?

While 49% of students left the district without graduating, many students enrolled in another school or health-care facility (i.e., enrolled in other Texas public school, private school or health-care facility in Texas, or school or health-care facility outside Texas) that was not in AISD (Table 4). Aside from enrolling in a non-AISD school, many students left AISD without providing a reason, requested to leave for home school, or returned to their home country. Ever-ELL students who did not provide a reason are the primary concern as it is unknown if those students were able to continue their education.

Table 4

Many students who left AISD prior to graduation enrolled in a different Texas public school.

Reason	Academic year				Total
	2012–2013	2013–2014	2014–2015	2015–2016	
Enrolled in other Texas public school	125	99	67	34	325
Did not provide reason/not in list	131	150	121	86	488
Other reason	4	1	1	0	6
Returning to home country	55	64	42	13	174
Legal request for home school	18	30	44	24	116
Enrolled in private school or health-care facility in Texas	9	6	33	64	112
Enrolled in school or health-care facility out of Texas	11	18	8	7	44
Total	353	368	316	228	1,265

Source. AISD student records

Note. Other reason includes delinquent immunization, passed away while enrolled, and entering college.

An equal percentage of students who were reclassified in elementary school or ELLs in high school enrolled in a non-AISD school or health-care facility (Table 5). A greater proportion of ELLs in high school left AISD due to legally requesting home school than ever-ELL students who were reclassified in elementary school or middle school. A larger proportion of students who were reclassified in middle school (19%) cited returning to their home country as the reason for leaving AISD, compared with students who were reclassified in elementary school or students who were ELLs in high school.

Table 5

A greater percentage of ever-ELLs who were reclassified in middle school than of ever-ELLs reclassified in elementary school or ELLs in high school cited returning to home country as the reason for leaving AISD.

ELL status	Enrolled in non-AISD school or health-care facility		Legal request for home school		Returning to home country		Other		Did not provide reason/not in list		Total	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Reclassified in elementary school	84	45%	10	5%	20	11%	2	1%	69	37%	185	100%
Reclassified in middle school	275	34%	71	9%	152	19%	4	0%	308	38%	810	100%
ELLs in high school	122	45%	35	13%	27	10%	0	0%	86	32%	270	100%

Source. AISD student records

Note. Enrolled in non-AISD school or health-care facility includes students who enrolled in other Texas public school, enrolled in private school or health-care facility in Texas, or enrolled in school or health-care facility outside Texas; Other reason includes delinquent immunization, passed away while enrolled, and entering college. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Summary

Similar percentages of 2012–2013 9th-grade ever-ELLs graduated (49%) or left the district without graduating (48%) in 2015–2016. Students who were reclassified in elementary school had a higher proportion graduating from AISD than did students who were reclassified in middle school or who entered high school as ELLs. In contrast, students who were reclassified in middle school had the highest proportion of students who left AISD without graduating. Of students who left the district prior to graduation, the majority did not drop out; many students enrolled in a non-AISD school or health-care facility or made a legal request for home school. Aside from enrollment in a non-AISD school or health-care facility, certain nuances were seen when examining other reasons students left AISD prior to graduation by ELL reclassification status. Further research is needed to examine whether other factors are predictive of ever-ELLs' graduation outcomes.

Jenny Leung, M.A.



Department of Research and Evaluation



1111 West 6th Street, Suite D-350 | Austin, TX 78703-5338
512.414.1724 | fax: 512.414.1707
www.austinisd.org/dre | Twitter: @AISD_DRE

February 2018

Publication 17.07