

2016-2017 Bilingual/ESL Program Evaluation

Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, two hundred ninety-eight students were served in our bilingual and ESL programs. Eighty percent of the district’s English language learners (ELLs) are in grades PK-5. The language proficiency assessment committees determined forty-six students in grades 1-12 met exit criteria.

HISD continues to provide an early exit transitional model for bilingual students and a quality ESL program for students not served in bilingual classes. During this past school year, our district employed a total of two bilingual-certified teachers (one PK and one 1st grade), as well as two Kindergarten teachers who speak Spanish and are attempting to meet the requirements of the proficiency test required for bilingual certification.

Several of our ELLs continue to struggle with meeting the standard of the STAAR test. The table below shows the percentage of ELLs who met at least the “Approaches Grade Level Performance” for Reading and Math with a comparison to percentages across Texas.

Current ELLs	Rdg/Engl&II student #s	Rdg/Engl&II %age	Math student #s	Math %age
9th-12th	2/15	13%	0/2	0%
State		18%		63%
6th-8th	8/37	22%	14/37	38%
State		44%		59%
3rd-5th	32/94	34%	49/94	52%
State		62%		73%

Campuses continue to provide intensive second language instruction to ELLs who are performing at the lower proficiency levels. A new curriculum in 3rd-8th grade is being implemented in the 2017-18 school year to enhance this support.

Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment (TELPAS) data indicate that 29% of ELLs in PK-2 progressed one or more levels in language development. In grades 3 through 12, the data show 43% of the ELLs progressed at least one proficiency level. For progression gains, where ELLs must gain at least one level in proficiency, state standards require that 50% of ELLs show these gains (36% of HISD ELLs progressed at least one level).

Other data gathered by the U.S. Department of Education to indicate language proficiency growth is the percentage of ELLs who have attained the rating of advanced high. For this proficiency rating, students are divided into two groups: those who have been LEP 1-4 years

(state standard is 15%; HISD ELLs – 23%) and students LEP five or more years (state standard is 29%; HISD ELLs – 33%).

Through our summer academy professional development sessions, the district provided teachers with knowledge of online courses available on Texas Gateway that offer insight into implementing the English Language Proficiency Standards in the core content areas.