

A Presentation on the Report: Nevada's English Language Learner Population: A Review of Enrollment, Outcomes, and Opportunities

By Carrie Sampson, M.S., Doctoral Candidate, UNLV

The Lincy Institute

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Overview

- Report was co-authored by

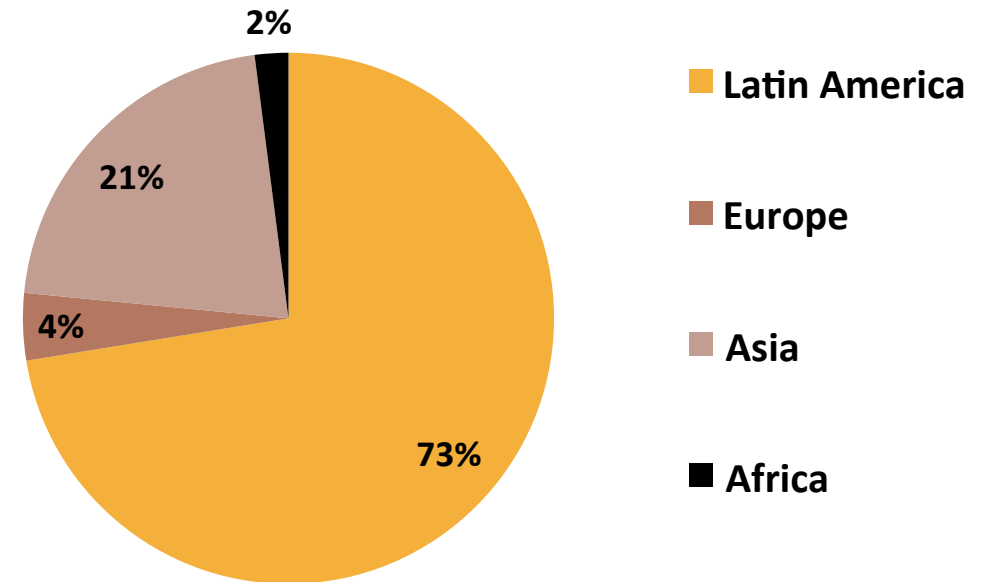
Sonya Douglass Horsford, Ed.D., The Lincy Institute;
Christina Mokhtar, Ph.D., Annenberg Institute For School Reform; and
Carrie Sampson, M.S., The Lincy Institute

- Rationale for the report
- Trends in Nevada's English language learners
- Discussion of implications

Nevada's Immigrant Population: Demographics and Growth

- Nevada's foreign-born population
 - 19% (or 508,458) of Nevada's residents are foreign-born
 - Nevada had the 5th largest foreign-born population among U.S. states in 2010 (The Brookings Institute, 2013)
- Growth of the Nevada's foreign-born population from 2000 to 2010
 - Nevada ranked 10th among U.S. states with an increase of 61% (The Brookings Institute, 2013)
 - Clark County ranked 3rd among U.S. counties in absolute growth (Batalova & Lee, 2012)
- Nevada's percentage of children living with immigrant families (36%) is larger than the national rate (23%)

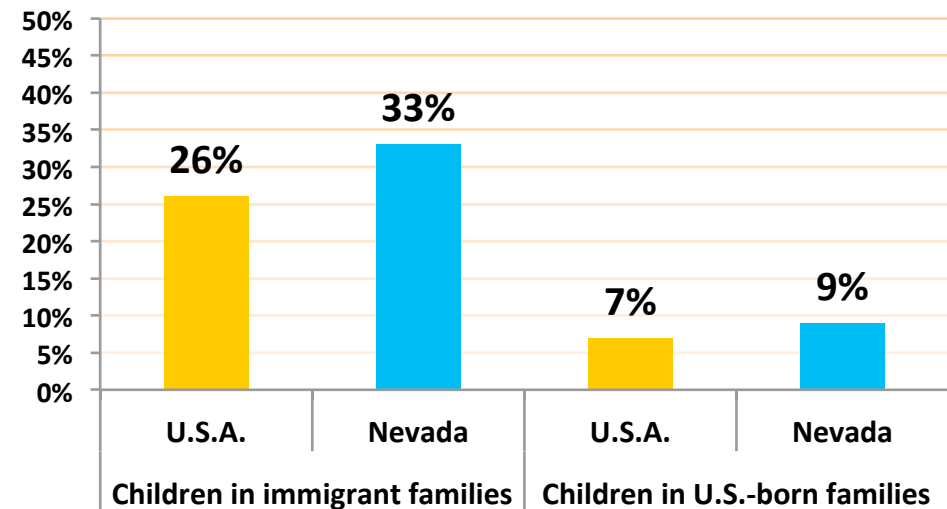
Nevada Children in Immigrant Families by Parents' Region of Origin (2010)



Nevada's Immigrant Population: Poverty and Education

- More Nevada children in immigrant families live below the poverty threshold (27%) than the national rate (19%) which is 5% more than the total rate of children living in poverty (22%)
- More Nevada children in immigrant families have parents with less than a high school diploma (33%) than the national rate (26%) which is 26% more than the total percentage of their U.S. born peers (7%)

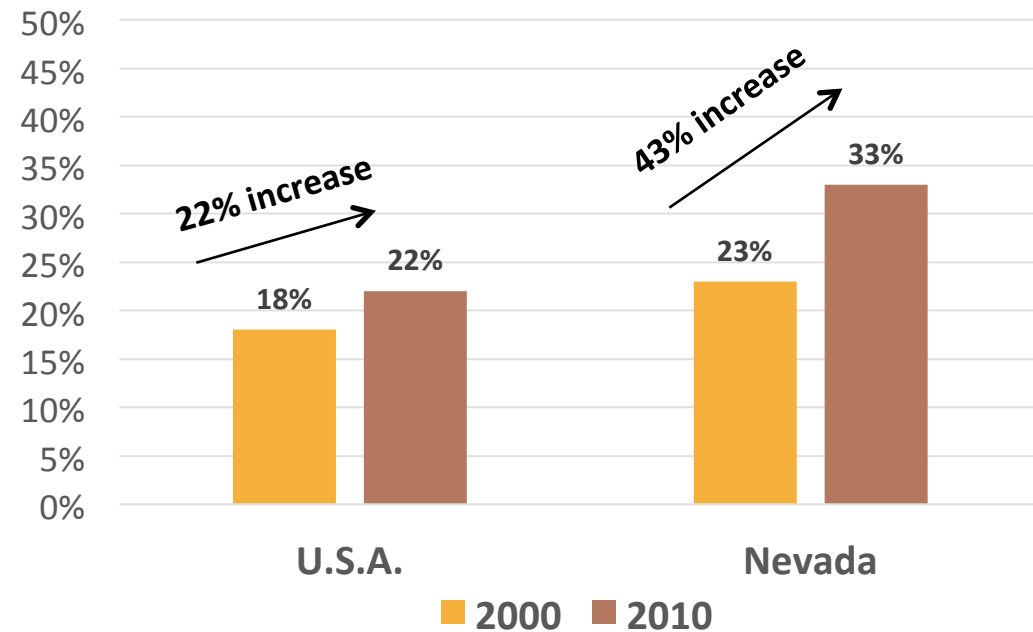
Children Whose Parents Have Less than a High School Degree (2010)



Nevada's Language Diversity

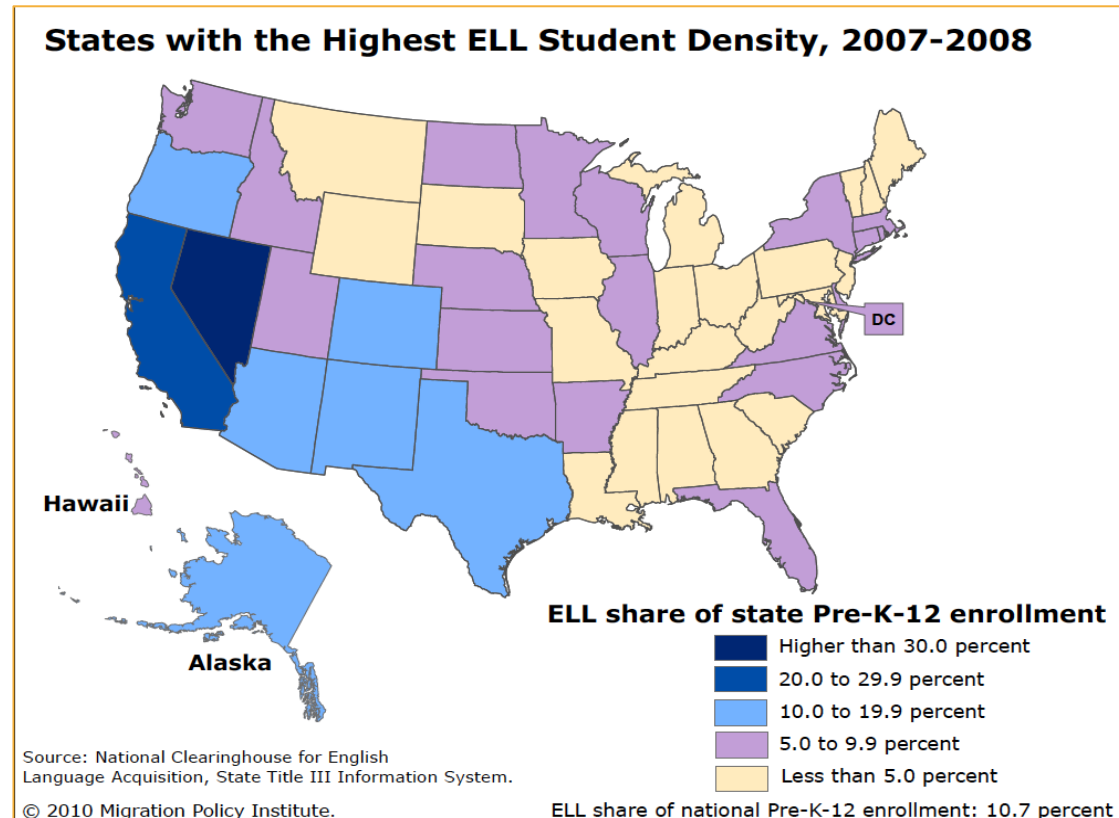
- Nevada has more non-native English speakers over 5 years old (33%) than the national average (22%) and this population has increased twice as much as the national average from 2000 to 2010.
- ELLs have increased over 200% --nearly four times the national average from 1998 to 2008
- Languages other than English that Nevada children speak
 - 70% Spanish
 - 7.5% speak Indo-European languages
 - 17.5% Asian and Pacific Island languages
 - 3.5% other languages

Children Who Speak a Language Other than English at Home



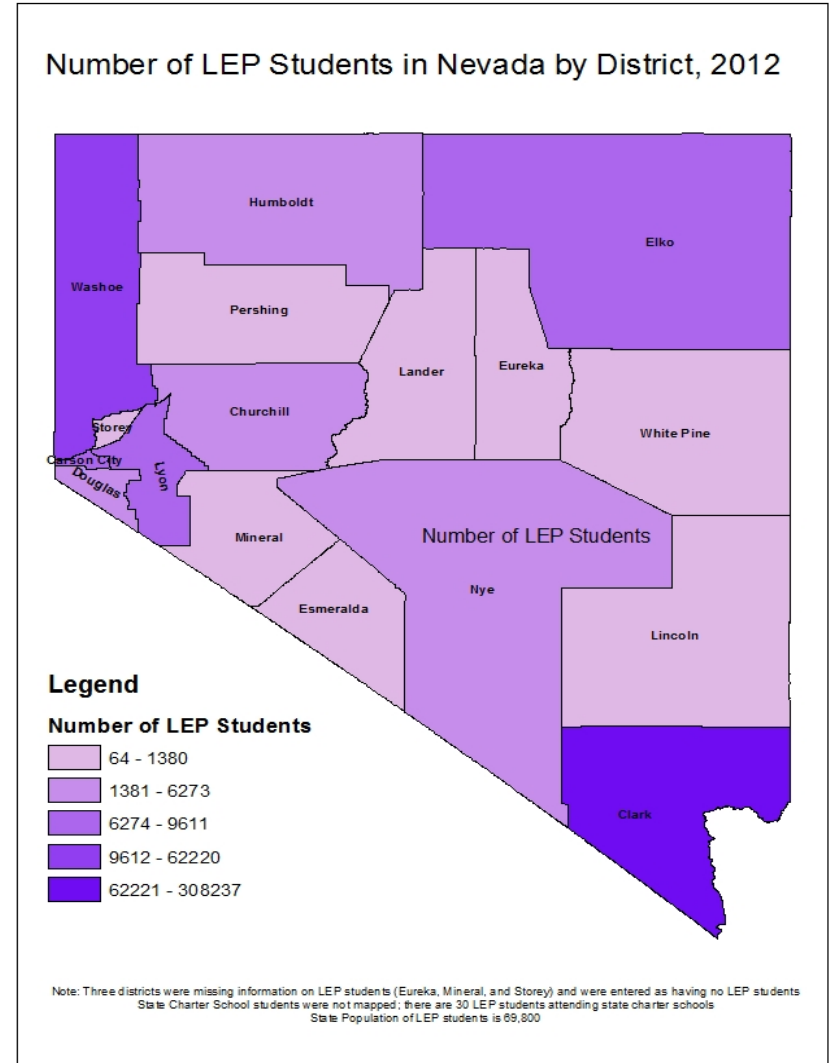
ELL Education in Nevada

In 2007-08, Nevada had the nation's highest density of ELLs in the nation at 31%



Nevada's ELL Population by District and Clark County's ELL Population

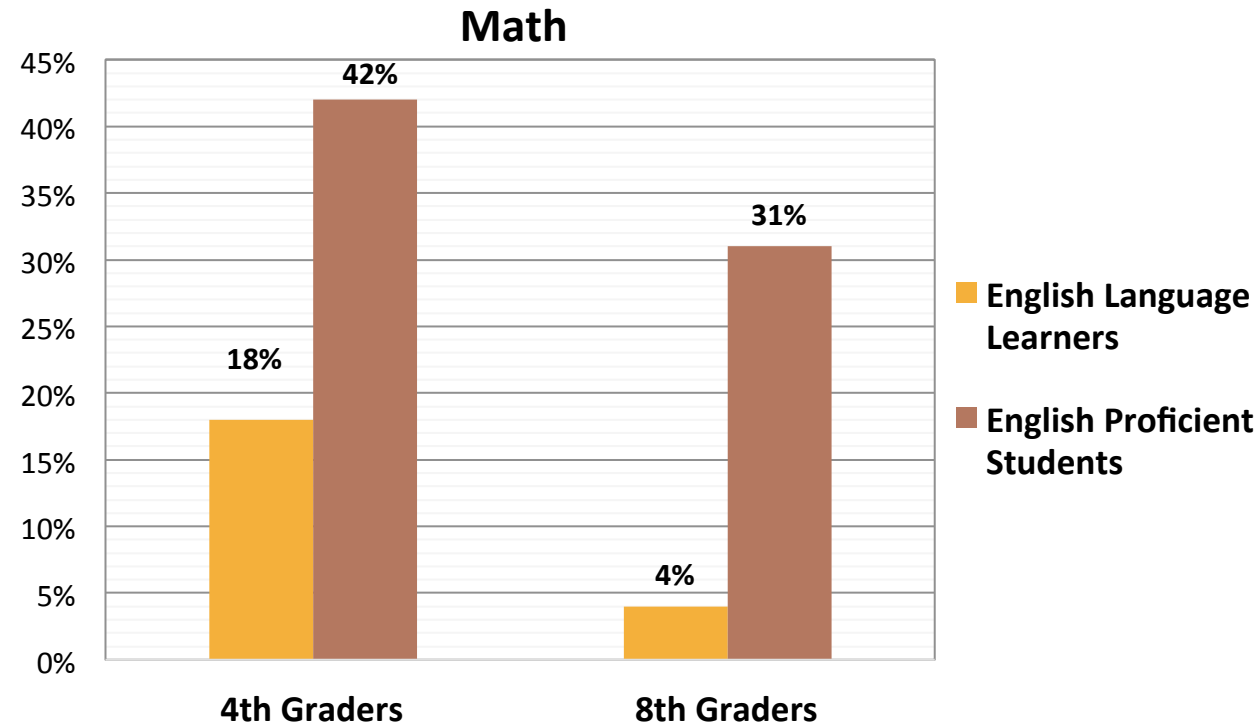
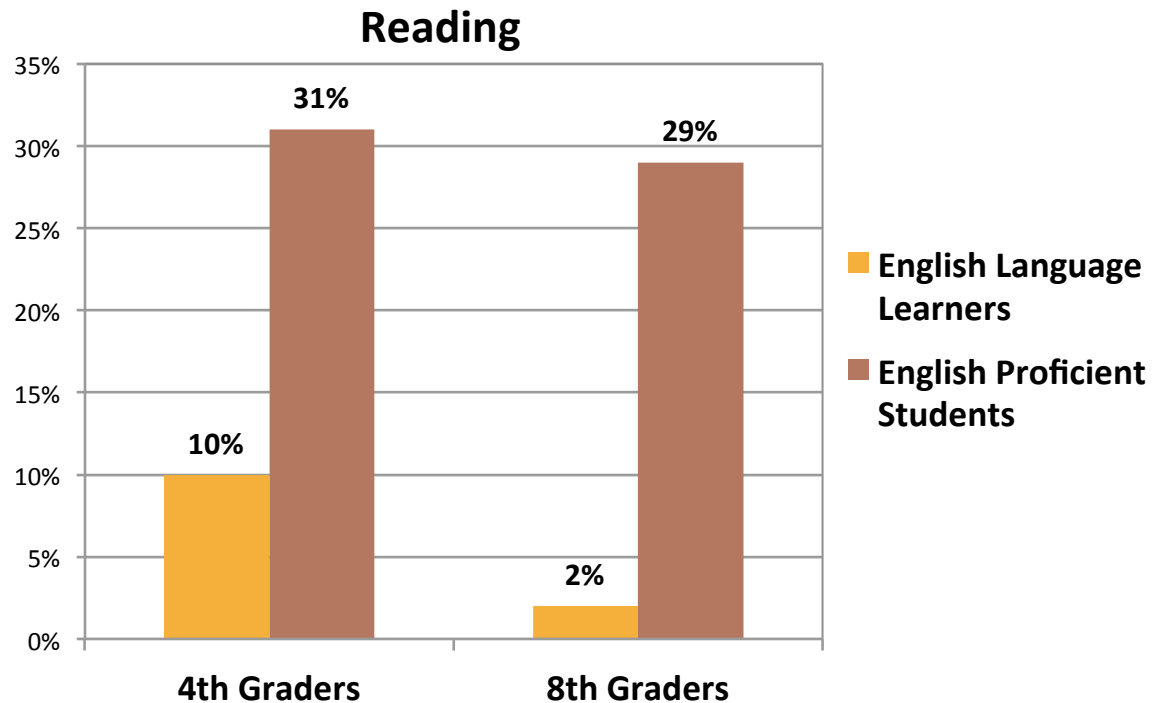
- Clark County School District (CCSD) has Nevada's largest population (78%) and highest density of ELLs followed by Washoe, Elko, and Lyon counties
- Between 1992 and 2001, CCSD's ELL population grew 245% (approximately 14,000 to more than 35,000 students)
- In 2011, over 54,000 CCSD students were actively in an ELL program and almost 95,000 were identified as ELL (tested, identified, and tracked)
- CCSD's ELL population represents approximately 154 different languages and 149 countries of origin
- 80% of CCSD's ELL population are U.S. born



ELL Education in Nevada

Nevada's 4th and 8th grade ELLs score below their non-ELL peers in reading and math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests

% of Nevada students who scored at or above proficiency on 2011 NAEP Tests



ELL Education Funding and Access in Nevada

- Nevada was one of only eight states that did not allocate specific dollars to ELL education
- In 2012-2013, Nevada received approximately \$8.3 million in federal monies for 71,455 ELL students (55,818 students in CCSD)
- CCSD received significantly less funding per ELL student (\$119) compared to peer districts: Houston Independent School District in Texas (\$2,588), Broward County in Florida (\$4,837), and Miami-Dade County Public Schools in Florida (\$4,677)

Funding for ELL Students by School District, 2010-2011

Comparison District	Total ELL Students	Total ELL Funding	Funding Per ELL Student
Broward	25,112	\$121,472,538	\$4,837
Clark	55,818	\$6,668,517*	\$119
Houston	62,178	\$160,923,036	\$2,588
Miami-Dade	67,842	\$317,300,988	\$4,677

How Other States Fund ELL Education

- States fund ELL education in different ways and at a varying level.
- Approaches include: block grants, additional per pupil dollar, weighted formulas, or unit or general “lump-sums”

Comparison State ELL Weights, 2010-11

State	% ELLs	Weight per ELL student
Arizona	7	0.115 per ELL student
Kansas	8	0.395 per ELL student
Oregon	10	0.50 per ELL student
Texas	15	0.10 per ELL student
Nevada	19	Unfunded

“Costing Out” an Adequate Education for ELLs

- In 2006, a costing out study was conducted in Nevada using a Professional Judgment Panel and a Successful School Model
- Both methods recommended that Nevada invest between \$132 to \$206 million dollars annually on ELL education based on 2003-04 figures.
- What’s an adequate education for ELLs?
 - Research recommends that at the very least, ELLs are provided the educational resources to meet state standards that move them from ELL status to Fluent English Proficiency status AND continued support until all linguistic minorities become proficient in other academic content.
 - An even more adequate education would also close academic achievement gaps between linguistic minorities and their peers
 - The highest standard of an adequate education would also provide resources to allow both linguistic minorities and native English speakers to be bilingual and bi-literate.

Nevada's Shift in Funding ELL Education in 2013

- The 2013 state legislature allocated \$50 million to ELL education over the next two years
- Funding was required to be spent on schools with the highest percentage of ELLs
- These “Zoom” schools include smaller class sizes, a prekindergarten program, full-day kindergarten classes, reading skills centers, a summer academy, and other additional resources and supplies
- CCSD designated 14 Zoom schools (out of 217 elementary schools) and Washoe County designated 6 Zoom schools
- The Nevada state legislature expects Zoom schools to significantly improve test outcomes among ELLs by the next legislative session
- Yet, research-based evidence indicates that students are often enrolled in an ELL program for 4 to 7 years before they understand enough English in to become proficient in other academic subjects

Implications for Adult ELLs

- Similar demographic and growth trends
- The state legislature is investing in elementary-age ELLs (2/3 of ELLs are K-4)
- Resistance and resentment among some Nevada residents to invest
- Language policies align with political and social climates
- We must shift from a deficit-based approach to an asset-based approach when it comes to language diversity
 - “Emergent Bilinguals”
- What are your thoughts?