



2022

**Report on the Status of Bilingual-
Bicultural Education Programs in
Wisconsin**

December, 2022

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

**Report on the Status of Bilingual–Bicultural
Education Programs in Wisconsin,
Chapter 115, Subchapter VII,
§ 115.996, Wis. Stats.**

**Prepared by the Bilingual/EL Education Program
Department of Public Instruction**



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DECEMBER 2022
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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Report on the Status of Bilingual–Bicultural Education Programs in Wisconsin

Background

Under Section 115.996, Wisconsin Statutes, the state superintendent is required to report to the legislature on the status of bilingual-bicultural education programs funded under this authority. This report provides the specific information required by law for the 2021-22 school year (paid during FY 2023).

Wisconsin school district personnel view Chapter 115, Subchapter VII, Wisconsin Statutes, as vital. It provides partial, yet critical, funding for student populations whose language education needs must be served.

Languages and Program Locations

In the 2021-22 school year, there were 369 public school districts in Wisconsin that had English learner students, totalling 49,812 English learners statewide. Fifty one school districts applied to receive state bilingual-bicultural categorical aid. Those districts served 26,610 English learner students who were eligible for state aid. This equates to 53.4 percent of all English learners in the state receiving bilingual-bicultural services that were partially reimbursed by the state. Thirteen languages were supported by the state bilingual-bicultural aid program: Arabic, Chinese, French, Hmong, Karen languages, Korean, Mandingo, Nepali, Pashto, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, and Telugu.

The number of English learners included in this report is drawn from WISEdata, the bilingual-bicultural end-of-year report, and the ACCESS for ELLs assessment, which is the state’s annual English language proficiency assessment that meets criteria under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It should be noted this report will use the term English learner (EL) rather than Limited English Proficient student, which follows the precedent set by the reauthorization of ESEA, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, in using this terminology. The table below includes information about the number of EL students identified in the state, the number of EL students served in state-reimbursed programs, and the number of state-reimbursed programs serving EL students.

2021-22: Languages and Program Locations	
Number of EL students identified	49,812
Number of EL students served in state-reimbursed programs	26,610
Number of state-reimbursed programs	51
	Abbotsford, Appleton, Baraboo, Barron, Beloit, Clinton, DC Everest, Darlington, Delavan-Darien, Eau Claire, Edgerton, Elk Mound, Elkhorn, Fond du Lac, Franklin, Green Bay, Holmen, Howard-Suamico, Janesville, Kenosha, Kewaunee, LaCrosse, Lake Geneva J1, Lake Geneva-Genoa City UHS, Luxemburg-Casco, Madison, Manitowoc, Marshall, Menasha, Menomonie, Middleton-Cross Plains, Milwaukee, New London, Onalaska, Oregon, Oshkosh, Racine, Reedsburg, Rice Lake, Sauk Prairie, Sheboygan, Stevens Point, Verona, Walworth J1, Waterloo, Watertown, Waukesha, Wausau, Whitewater, Wisconsin Dells, and Wisconsin Rapids

Program Costs for Categorically Aided District Programs

Originally, the appropriation from the state legislature was divided evenly among districts so that each received the same percentage of reimbursement for its approved expenditures. In 1999, Wisconsin Act 9 (the biennial budget) set aside \$250,000 from the bilingual-bicultural appropriation. This set-aside was to be divided proportionally among school districts participating in the bilingual-bicultural aid program whose enrollments in the previous school year were at least 15 percent English learners. The remainder of the appropriation was divided evenly among all the districts according to their approved total budgets. The same formula continues through the current fiscal year. Eight districts were eligible for this set-aside for 2021-22: Abbotsford, Beloit, Darlington, Delavan-Darien, Green Bay, Madison, Sheboygan, and Waterloo.

Program costs vary from district to district due to several factors, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Number of students served;
- Base cost for a language program;
- Variety of languages spoken by students and families in a district;
- English-language proficiency level of students and range of proficiency levels among students in a classroom or in a school;
- Amount of previous schooling of English learners;
- Staff/student ratio;
- Amount of instructional contact time;
- Instructional resources provided (e.g., texts, equipment, native language materials/assessments);

- Type of program, such as in-class vs. pull-out programs, or self-contained (e.g., two-way dual language); and
- Outreach and services to EL students and families, immigrant children and youth or refugee status of students and families.

A salient point is that although a school district may have English learners and a bilingual program, not all English learners in the school district are necessarily enrolled in that bilingual program model. This could be for several reasons: the bilingual program model may be targeted at K-3 students; there could be a bilingual program for one language group in a district but not for other languages; or if an EL is older, the student’s schedule (in middle or high school) can be prohibitive to providing bilingual support at the cost of providing content instruction. The following data tables demonstrate the costs for educating ELs in bilingual programs and the current reimbursement rates FY 23.

2021-22 Program Costs for Categorically Aided District Programs		
Average approved cost/EL student		\$4,093
Average state reimbursement/EL student		\$313
Number of state-reimbursed programs		51
Percentage of Reimbursement to Categorically Aided District Programs Paid in FY23		
Percent of reimbursement to all aided districts except those receiving set-aside	Formula = $\frac{\$8,589,800 - 250,000}{108,904,418}$	7.65791%
Districts receiving set-aside (EL enrollments of at least 15% of their student enrollment receive a percentage of the set-aside of \$250,000)	Abbotsford, Beloit, Darlington, Delavan-Darien, Green Bay, Madison, Sheboygan, and Waterloo	

Historical Profile: Fully English Proficient Students

The following statistics trace the history of bilingual education in Wisconsin over the past 21 years. This data includes the number of students served in programs receiving categorical aid and the number of students in those programs who became fully English proficient during the school year. Both the total number of eligible students and the number of districts eligible for bilingual-bicultural categorical aid have grown significantly over the years. However, the percentage of approved costs being reimbursed by state aid has significantly decreased.

Historical Demographic Data

School Year	Number of Districts Reporting EL Students	Number of EL Students Reported	Number of Aided Districts	Number of EL Students in Aided Programs Reclassified as Fully English Proficient	Number of Eligible EL Students Served	Number of Non-Aided Districts	"Balance" of EL Students ¹
2021-22	369	49,812	51	1,302	26,610	318	23,202
2020-21	362	49,528	50	204 ²	27,129	312	22,399
2019-20	361	51,706	51	1,748	29,321	310	22,385
2018-19	365 ³	51,825	53	1,588	27,532	321	24,293
2017-18	361	52,446	53	1,308	27,961	308	24,485
2016-17	357	49,670	52	496 ⁴	26,721	305	22,949
2015-16	355	48,405	51	2,336	25,692	304	22,713
2014-15	356	49,309	50	2,031	24,998	306	24,311
2013-14 ⁵	351	49,560	51	2,319	23,716	300	25,844
2012-13	355	50,052	52	2,910	26,426	303	23,626
2011-12	354	51,727	59	2,627	27,220	295	24,507
2010-11	352	51,944 ⁶	58	1,846	28,086	294	23,858
2009-10	361	52,100	55	1,860	26,954	306	25,146
2008-09	358	51,772	56	1,401	27,663	302	24,109
2007-08	328	45,651	54	1,415	27,031	274	18,620
2006-07	289	40,752	52	644	26,331	237	14,421
2005-06	183	33,402 ⁷	51	641	25,081	132	8,321
2004-05	267	39,255	49	1,921	24,672	218	14,583
2003-04	247	35,602	49	1,443	22,311	189	13,291
2002-03	211	34,199	43	1,076	22,136	168	12,063
2001-02	199	32,588	45	1,406	22,016	154	10,572

¹ Data regarding the types of services received, if any, are not collected for "non-eligible" EL students; most of these students are being served in second language acquisition programs.

² This number is low due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on some districts' ability to administer the ACCESS test.

³ This number was updated on 11/18/2020 from 374 to 365.

⁴ This number is low compared to previous years due to a new standard for exiting on the ACCESS test; more information on the [WIDA web page](#).

⁵ Beginning with the March 2011 census, and for subsequent years through the 2014 census, different business rules were established resulting in totals that differ from previous years' data. The data in the shaded cells might differ if compared to an earlier report.

⁶ Beginning with the March 2011 census, data sources differ from previous years and numbers for PK students identified as EL are again included. The change has caused an apparent drop in the number of ELs, though that drop is more than likely due to the change in data sources.

⁷ This count appears low because it does not include most EL migrant students or ELS students in PK.

Data Displays

Statewide data from school districts receiving categorical aid for the 2021-22 school year is presented on the following pages:

TABLE NO.	TITLE
Table 1	2021-22 Bilingual-Bicultural Education: Students Served by Language
Table 2	2021-22 Bilingual-Bicultural Education: District Costs/Reimbursement Report
Table 3	2021-22 Bilingual-Bicultural Education: Student Participation by District Language

If additional information regarding any aspect of this report is needed, please contact Kevyn Radcliffe, Legislative Liaison, at (608) 264-6716.

Table 1: 2021-22 Bilingual-Bicultural Education: Students Served by Language

Language Served	Grade Group PK-03	Grade Group 04-08	Grade Group 09-12	Language Total
Arabic	436	338	0	774
Chinese	33	0	0	33
French	0	0	23	23
Hmong; Mong	2270	2038	861	5169
Karen languages	12	0	0	12
Korean	18	0	0	18
Mandingo	10	0	20	30
Nepali	10	0	0	10
Pushto; Pashto	12	20	0	32
Somali	88	0	30	118
Spanish; Castilian	7956	7719	4688	20363
Swahili	10	0	0	10
Telugu	18	0	0	18
Totals:	10873	10115	5622	26610

Table 2: 2021-22 Bilingual-Bicultural Education: District Costs and Reimbursement Report

District Name	Eligible EL Students	Wages and Other Approved Costs	Reimbursement	Approved Costs Per Eligible EL Student	Reimbursement Per Eligible EL Student
Abbotsford School District	342	\$453,900.33	\$41,295.98	\$1,327	\$121
Appleton Area School District	477	\$3,910,592.22	\$299,469.55	\$8,198	\$628
Baraboo School District	36	\$187,136.67	\$14,330.75	\$5,198	\$398
Barron Area School District	84	\$420,753.58	\$32,220.92	\$5,009	\$384
Beloit School District	1005	\$3,961,991.77	\$322,117.45	\$3,942	\$321
Clinton Community School District	88	\$198,035.72	\$15,165.39	\$2,250	\$172
D C Everest Area School District	381	\$1,196,037.15	\$91,591.42	\$3,139	\$240
Darlington Community School District	184	\$420,554.13	\$34,709.47	\$2,286	\$189
Delavan-Darien School District	412	\$2,225,323.32	\$177,523.30	\$5,401	\$431
Eau Claire Area School District	235	\$2,607,692.71	\$199,694.70	\$11,097	\$850
Edgerton School District	62	\$2,446.29	\$187.33	\$39	\$3
Elk Mound Area School District	14	\$85,658.56	\$6,559.65	\$6,118	\$469
Elkhorn Area School District	165	\$402,466.05	\$30,820.48	\$2,439	\$187
Fond du Lac School District	44	\$227,119.91	\$17,392.63	\$5,162	\$395
Franklin Public School District	57	\$186,965.98	\$14,317.68	\$3,280	\$251
Green Bay Area Public School District	2495	\$12,343,861.24	\$1,023,989.47	\$4,947	\$410
Holmen School District	118	\$829,845.09	\$63,548.77	\$7,033	\$539
Howard-Suamico School District	27	\$126,355.50	\$9,676.19	\$4,680	\$358
Janesville School District	137	\$502,644.34	\$38,492.04	\$3,669	\$281

Kenosha School District	170	\$413,294.74	\$31,649.73	\$2,431	\$186
Kewaunee School District	52	\$160,894.71	\$12,321.17	\$3,094	\$237
La Crosse School District	316	\$1,499,163.33	\$114,804.55	\$4,744	\$363
Lake Geneva J1 School District	134	\$505,546.35	\$38,714.27	\$3,773	\$289
Lake Geneva-Genoa City UHS School District	65	\$274,382.47	\$21,011.96	\$4,221	\$323
Luxemburg-Casco School District	57	\$422,422.20	\$32,348.70	\$7,411	\$568
Madison Metropolitan School District	4229	\$23,277,659.51	\$1,881,358.47	\$5,504	\$445
Manitowoc School District	196	\$1,288,544.55	\$98,675.55	\$6,574	\$503
Marshall School District	140	\$213,460.62	\$16,346.62	\$1,525	\$117
Menasha Joint School District	355	\$4,110,101.42	\$314,747.78	\$11,578	\$887
Menomonie Area School District	112	\$305,167.62	\$23,369.46	\$2,725	\$209
Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District	210	\$1,151,939.83	\$88,214.49	\$5,485	\$420
Milwaukee School District	7260	\$17,027,337.80	\$1,303,937.84	\$2,345	\$180
New London School District	95	\$317,863.04	\$24,341.66	\$3,346	\$256
Onalaska School District	180	\$520,450.08	\$39,855.59	\$2,891	\$221
Oregon School District	80	\$224,759.24	\$17,211.86	\$2,809	\$215
Oshkosh Area School District	235	\$627,562.79	\$48,058.18	\$2,670	\$205
Racine Unified School District	1895	\$3,771,594.07	\$288,825.20	\$1,990	\$152
Reedsburg School District	66	\$155,372.18	\$11,898.26	\$2,354	\$180
Rice Lake Area School District	12	\$63,658.44	\$4,874.90	\$5,305	\$406
Sauk Prairie School District	167	\$602,045.68	\$46,104.10	\$3,605	\$276
Sheboygan Area School District	1188	\$4,169,176.27	\$354,172.29	\$3,509	\$298

Stevens Point Area Public School District	189	\$1,434,849.16	\$109,879.43	\$7,592	\$581
Verona Area School District	674	\$2,710,872.00	\$207,596.08	\$4,022	\$308
Walworth J1 School District	10	\$51,002.64	\$3,905.74	\$5,100	\$391
Waterloo School District	167	\$223,386.93	\$19,859.06	\$1,338	\$119
Watertown Unified School District	121	\$738,005.76	\$56,515.80	\$6,099	\$467
Waukesha School District	711	\$6,088,023.40	\$466,215.22	\$8,563	\$656
Wausau School District	705	\$4,920,850.02	\$376,834.16	\$6,980	\$535
Whitewater Unified School District	348	\$667,672.26	\$51,129.73	\$1,919	\$147
Wisconsin Dells School District	25	\$103,233.23	\$7,905.51	\$4,129	\$316
Wisconsin Rapids School District	83	\$574,745.50	\$44,013.48	\$6,925	\$530
Totals: 51	26,610	\$108,904,418.40	\$8,589,800.01	\$227,774	\$17,612

Table 3: 2021-22 Bilingual-Bicultural Education: Student Participation by District and Language

District Name	Language Served	Grade Range	Eligible EL Students	Reclassified English Proficient
Abbotsford School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	342	25
Appleton Area School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	441	51
	Spanish; Castilian	KG-05	36	3
Baraboo School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-08	36	4
Barron Area School District	Somali	K4-03	53	0
	Spanish; Castilian	K4-03	31	0
Beloit School District	Spanish; Castilian	PK-12	1005	20
Clinton Community School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	88	4
D C Everest Area School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	381	50
Darlington Community School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	184	11
Delavan-Darien School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	412	22
Eau Claire Area School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	182	18
	Spanish; Castilian	KG-02	53	0
Edgerton School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-08	62	2
Elk Mound Area School District	Hmong; Mong	PK-03	14	0
Elkhorn Area School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-12	165	16
Fond du Lac School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-08	44	3
Franklin Public School District	Arabic	KG-08	57	14
Green Bay Area Public School District	Hmong; Mong	K4-12	333	12
	Karen languages	K4-03	12	1
	Pushto; Pashto	KG-08	32	0
	Somali	K4-12	65	4
	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	2053	128
Holmen School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	118	13
Howard-Suamico School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-03	13	0
	Spanish; Castilian	KG-03	14	0
Janesville School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-12	137	10
Kenosha School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-08	170	18
Kewaunee School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-08	52	0
La Crosse School District	Hmong; Mong	K4-12	316	0
Lake Geneva J1 School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-08	134	19
Lake Geneva-Genoa City UHS School District	Spanish; Castilian	09-12	65	7
Luxemburg-Casco School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-08	57	4
Madison Metropolitan School District	Arabic	K4-03	44	0
	Chinese	K4-03	33	2
	Hmong; Mong	K4-12	288	10

District Name	Language Served	Grade Range	Eligible EL Students	Reclassified English Proficient
	Korean	KG-03	18	1
	Mandingo	K4-12	30	0
	Nepali	KG-03	10	0
	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	3788	95
	Telugu	K4-03	18	1
Manitowoc School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	196	8
Marshall School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	140	10
Menasha Joint School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-08	50	9
	Spanish; Castilian	KG-12	305	26
Menomonie Area School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	112	5
Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-12	210	19
Milwaukee School District	Arabic	K4-08	658	21
	French	09-12	23	0
	Hmong; Mong	K4-08	681	22
	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	5898	152
New London School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-12	95	21
Onalaska School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	180	19
Oregon School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-08	80	3
Oshkosh Area School District	Arabic	KG-03	15	0
	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	210	15
	Swahili	KG-03	10	0
Racine Unified School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	1895	87
Reedsburg School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-05	66	4
Rice Lake Area School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-03	12	2
Sauk Prairie School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	167	1
Sheboygan Area School District	Hmong; Mong	K4-12	683	25
	Spanish; Castilian	KG-12	505	30
Stevens Point Area Public School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-12	189	17
Verona Area School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-12	674	59
Walworth J1 School District	Spanish; Castilian	PK-KG	10	0
Waterloo School District	Spanish; Castilian	PK-12	167	8
Watertown Unified School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-08	121	11
Waukesha School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	711	81
Wausau School District	Hmong; Mong	K4-12	655	54
	Spanish; Castilian	KG-05	50	3
Whitewater Unified School District	Spanish; Castilian	K4-12	348	14
Wisconsin Dells School District	Spanish; Castilian	KG-03	25	3
Wisconsin Rapids School District	Hmong; Mong	KG-08	83	5

District Name	Language Served	Grade Range	Eligible EL Students	Reclassified English Proficient
		Totals:	26610	1302