

Are Illinois English Learners being properly assessed in kindergarten?



Illinois Workforce and Education
Research Collaborative

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1 in 5 kindergarteners in Illinois is an English Learner.

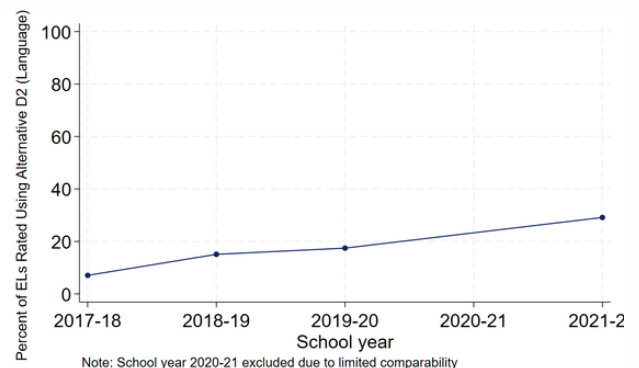
The Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) measures kindergarten readiness for Illinois students and aims to be culturally and linguistically responsive. To that end, there is an alternative language assessment for English Learners (ELs). It replaces two measures with alternatives better suited for understanding emergent English skills.

The KIDS Guidance for Dual Language Learners (ISBE, 2017) “strongly recommends” that teachers use the alternative language assessment for students in bilingual classrooms. Otherwise, the alternative assessment can be used “at the teacher’s discretion.” In other words, teachers are not obligated to assess ELs using the alternative language assessment.

Although most ELs did not receive the alternative assessment, there has been gradual improvement.

- 30% received the alternative assessment in the 2021-22 school year, up from 10% in 2017-18.

Percent of English Learners rated using alternative KIDS assessment



In Bilingual Classrooms:

- 1 out of 5 ELs are in bilingual classrooms.



- 80% of these received the alternative assessment.



80%

Not in Bilingual Classrooms:

- 4 out of 5 ELs are not in bilingual classrooms.



- Less than 3% of these received the alternative assessment.



3%

Learn more at go.uillinois.edu/KIDSassessment