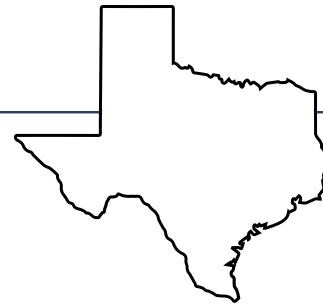


### Teacher Support for Emergent Bilingual Students and English Learners

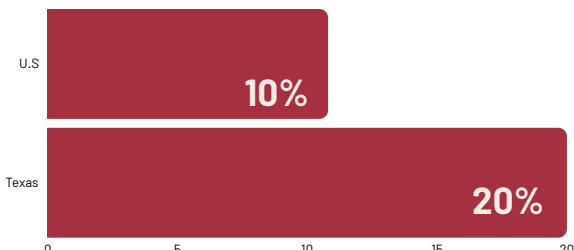
**T**eachers play a pivotal role in student outcomes, particularly for EB/EL students who face additional challenges in mastering content and language simultaneously. Our report finds that districts with better teacher-to-student ratios and bilingual-certified educators see improved student performance, such as higher STAAR and TELPAS scores. These districts also experience less chronic absenteeism.

**Our report finds that investing in teacher support is vital to addressing learning gaps.** Continuous professional development equips educators with strategies to better serve EB/EL and newcomer students, such as real-time coaching and interactive training. Districts that prioritize these initiatives report stronger student engagement and improved academic outcomes. Successful districts have also incorporated stipends and reimbursement programs to encourage new and existing teachers to pursue bilingual certifications. This is especially needed to bridge the salary gap for certified bilingual teachers. For example, United ISD in Laredo, Texas actively supports teachers in obtaining ESL certification and offers comprehensive professional development opportunities.

These efforts expand the pool of qualified educators and strengthen the implementation of high-quality bilingual education programs. People centered efforts geared towards supporting and inspiring teachers help ensure teachers are appropriately treated like a valuable resource in their school districts.



- Texas has **1 bilingual teacher per 16 students**, above the 15:1 state average for all teachers.
- Certified bilingual teachers earn, on average, **7% less** than their peers statewide.



The percentage of public-school students in the U.S. and Texas who were English learners, 2021.

#### Citations

1- U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education," 2021-22; and ED Facts file 141, Data Group 678, 2021-22. See Digest of Education Statistics 2023, table [204.20](#).



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