

English Learner's Master Plan Update

DeKalb County Board of Education Meeting

May 11, 2026

Mrs. Kiana King, Interim Chief of Student Services

Dr. Evelyn Hall, Executive Director of English Learners Department



DeKalb County
School District

DeKalb County School District English Learners Master Plan

During the 24-25 SY, the DCSD contracted with the RMC Research Corporation to conduct an ESOL Program Evaluation and to use the fundings to collaboratively develop a comprehensive Master Plan.



ESOL Program Evaluation Alignment

The English Learners (EL) Master Plan aligns with both DCSD's Strategic Plan Goal Areas and the Georgia Department of Education's (DOE) 10 Legal Obligations for English as a Second Language (ESOL) Programs.

DCSD Strategic Plan Goal Areas



GOAL AREA 1
Student Academic Success
with Equity and Access



GOAL AREA 2
School, Family, and
Community Engagement



GOAL AREA 3
Recruit, Develop, and
Retain Talent



GOAL AREA 4
Culture and Climate



GOAL AREA 5
Mental Health and Wellness



GOAL AREA 6
Organizational Excellence



ALIGNS
WITH

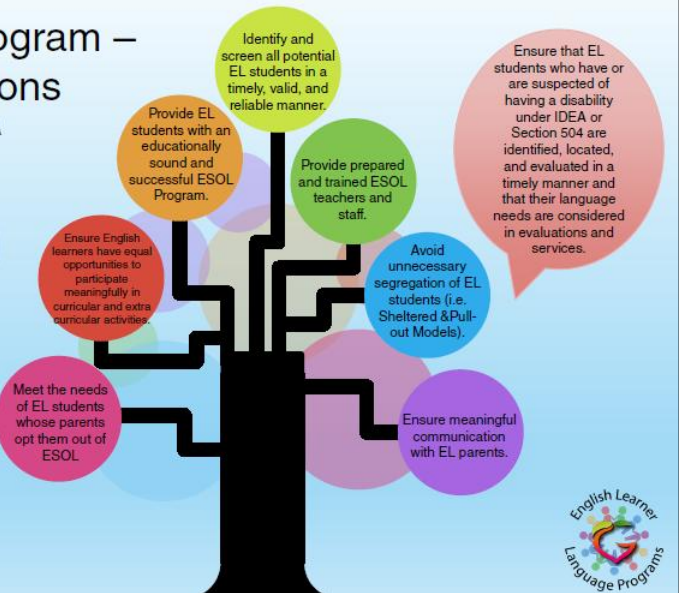
Georgia DOE – LEAs' 10 Legal Obligations for ESOL Programs

ESOL Language Program – LEAs' Legal Obligations

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and EEOA

1. Monitor and evaluate EL students' progress in English and academic grade-level knowledge;
2. Exit them when they are proficient in English; and
3. Monitor exited students to ensure they were not prematurely exited.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the LEAs ESOL Program to ensure EL students acquire English and that the program is reasonably calculated to allow ELs to attain parity of participation in the standard instructional program with a reasonable time period.



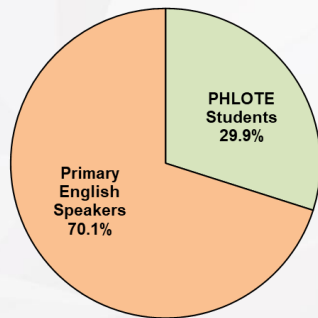
Who We Serve

Primary Home Language Other Than English (PHLOTE) Student Enrollment

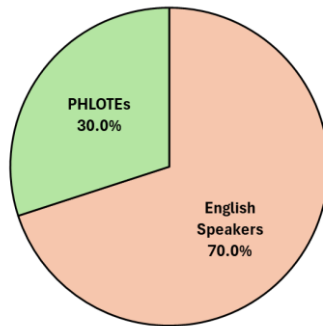
PHLOTE Families' Countries of Origin = 163

PHLOTE Student Languages = 172

PHLOTE Student Population



PHLOTE Student Enrollment



Top 15 PHLOTE Languages

Language	Students
Spanish	16,236
Amharic	1,167
Swahili	974
Burmese, Hakka Chin	752
Dari	743
Arabic	542
Pashto/Pashtu	445
Karen	417
Bengali	372
Nepali	334
Rohingya	317
French	268
Tigrinya	233
Hindi	212
Vietnamese	197

Top 15 Countries of Origin (non-USA)

Country	Students
Guatemala	1,811
Mexico	1,274
Afghanistan	1,211
Honduras	889
Venezuela	719
Ethiopia	590
India	511
Congo	451
Myanmar (Burma)	411
Malaysia	352
Colombia	269
Peru	265
Tanzania	249
Bangladesh	225
Nicaragua	213

DCSD EL Student Population at a Glance

26,853

29.9% of enrollment

Primary Home Language Other Than English (PHLOTEs)

16,645

18.5% of enrollment

Active English Learners

2,751

3.1% of enrollment

Refugee Students

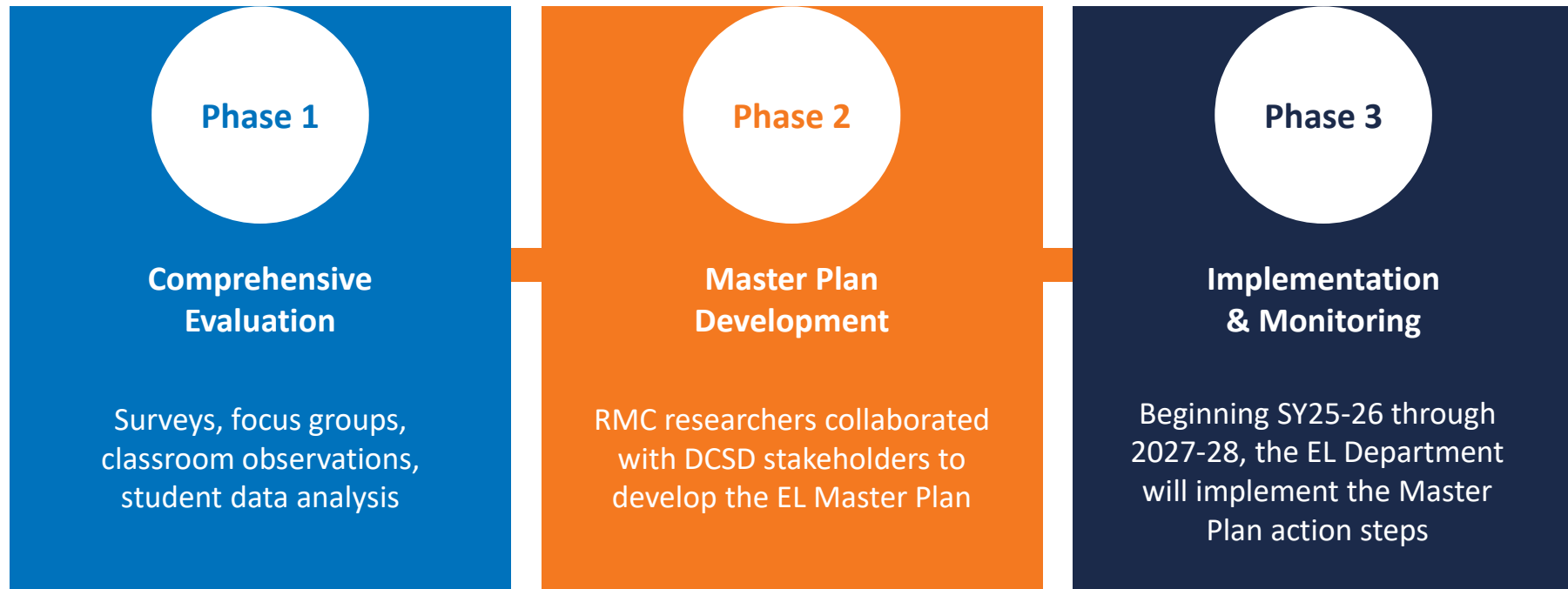
14,831

16.5% of enrollment

Born Outside the USA

ESOL Program Evaluation Process

The EL Master Plan marks the first comprehensive program evaluation for DCSD's EL Department.



DCSD English Learners Department Program Goals

In collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, the DCSD EL Department identified five goals that are outlined in the EL Master Plan

Goal 1

Teaching & Learning

Facilitate comprehensive implementation of high-quality curriculum and supplemental materials aligned with GA Standards that support the academic success of all English learners (ELs).

Goal 2

Professional
Learning

Provide tailored, high-quality professional learning to meet the needs of teachers, administrators, counselors, and clerical staff for the benefit of all ELs.

Goal 3

Communication

Develop and implement effective and timely two-way communication processes for all school and district staff, families, and other stakeholders for the benefit of all ELs.

Goal 4

Organizational
Systems

Develop and implement quality organization systems and collaborative processes that support all ELs.

Goal 5

Family
Engagement

Increase meaningful collaboration and support active engagement with PHLOTE families for student success.

PHASE 3-Current Implementation

Implementation & Monitoring



The DCSD EL Department will execute RMC's recommendations with appropriate resources, partners, and staffing.



Implementation status of all five goals will be monitored consistently. Broad-based communication will be strategically maintained.



EL Action Teams will implement each EL Master Plan Goal using identified measurements of success.



Each action step has a timeline for its implementation through 2027-28.

EL Master Plan – SY2025-2026 Targets

Deadline: June 30, 2026

TARGETS: ALL (100%) Action Steps will be initiated by June 30, 2026. Each EL Action Team will produce TWO deliverables.

GOAL 1

Improve access to Curriculum & Instruction

93%

GOAL 2

Enhance Professional Learning

100%

GOAL 3

Increase Two-Way Communication

88%

GOAL 4

Develop Organization Systems

100%

GOAL 5

Enhance Family Engagement

100%

TOTAL: 96% of Action Steps Initiated

EL Master Plan – SY2025-2026 Targets

Deadline: June 30, 2026

GOAL	DELIVERABLES
1	• Designed a survey to identify curriculum needs • Assembled a team to curate resources supporting mandated curriculum to enhance EL subgroup instruction
2	• Created a cross-departmental needs assessment tool for identifying instructional strengths • Developed an implementation monitoring process for PD offered by the EL Department
3	• Created an ESOL News You Can Use Newsletter • Designed a Presentation for leaders on communication protocols • Developed a Communication Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for schools
4	• Designed a districtwide initiative on ESOL delivery models for school leaders • Developed EL-specific guidance and training implementation of student accommodations
5	• Created a Sogolytics survey & Zoom registration reports for the newly implemented International Parent Engagement Series with webinars • International Parent Engagement Series satisfaction survey and artifacts



Implementation & Monitoring and Data Highlights

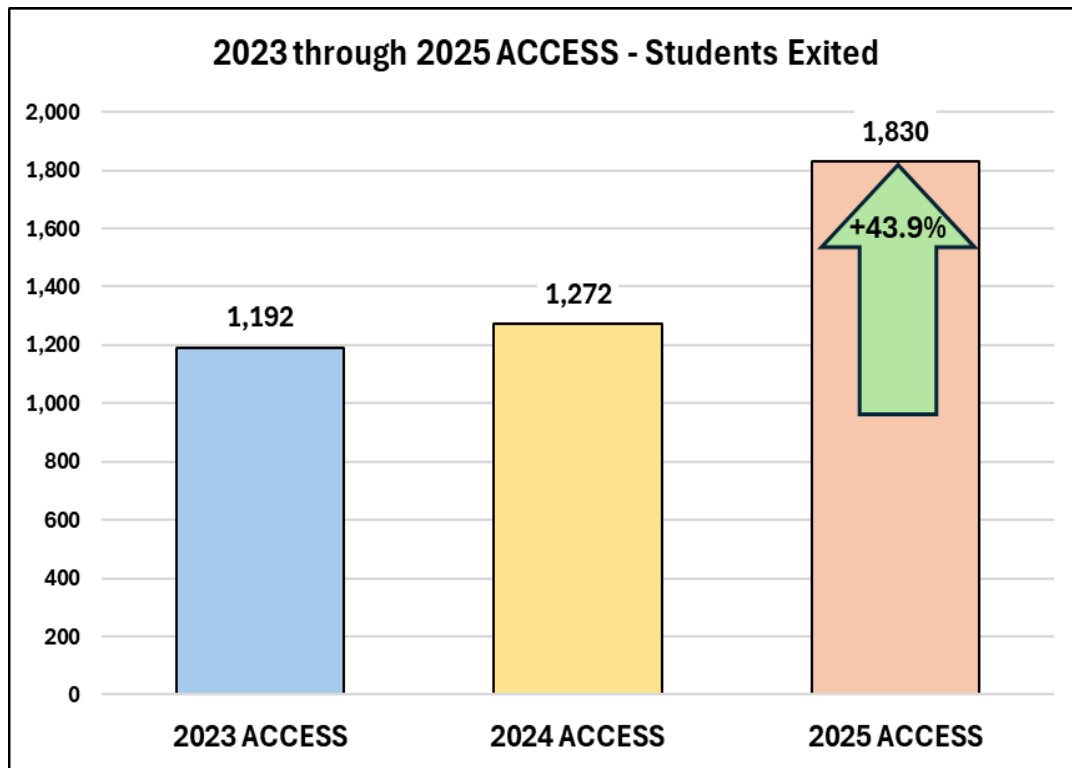
DCSD EL Exit Data

+43.9%

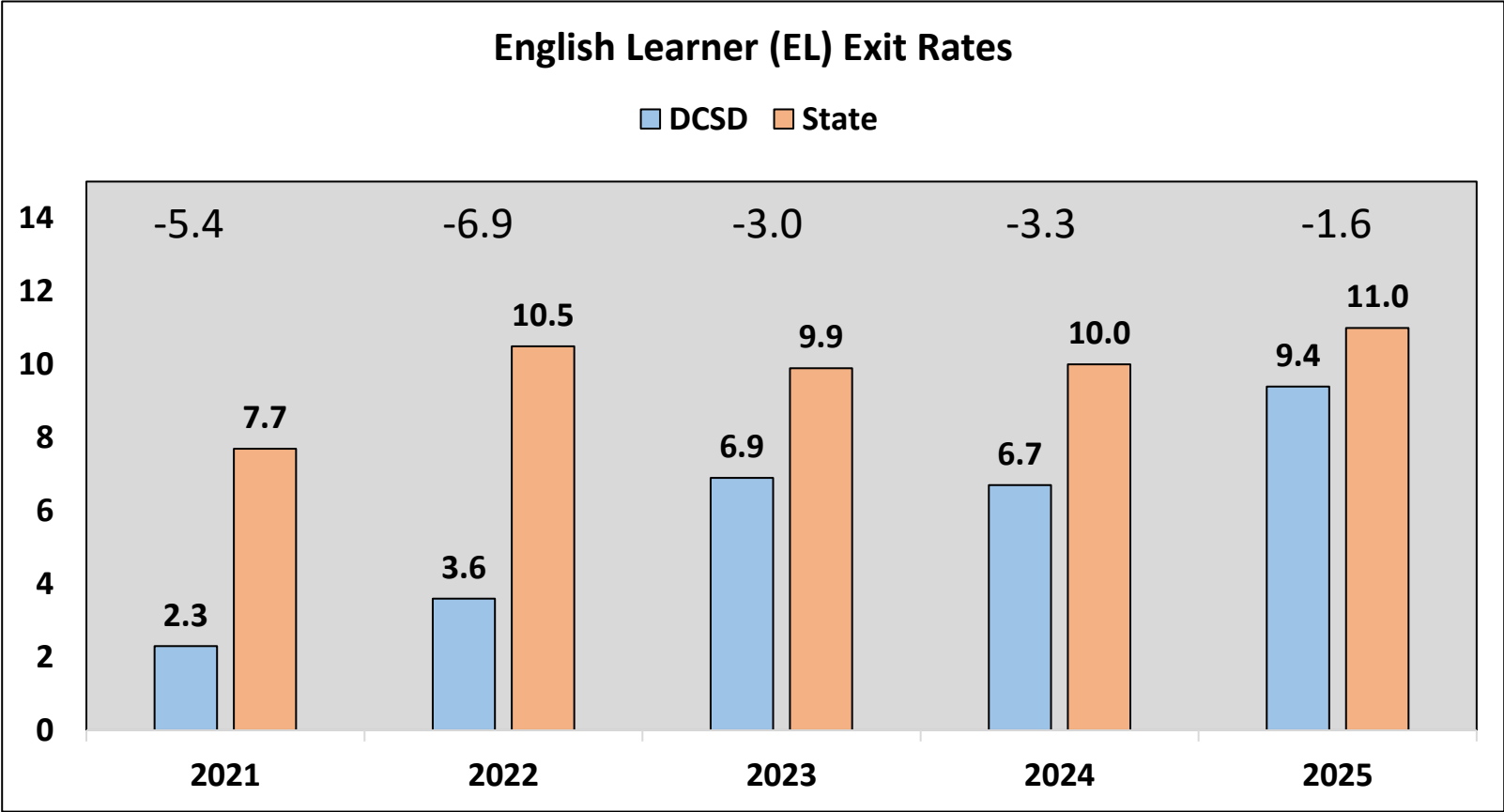
Increase in Students
Exiting the ESOL program

2023 ACCESS → 2025 ACCESS

1,192 → 1,272 → 1,830

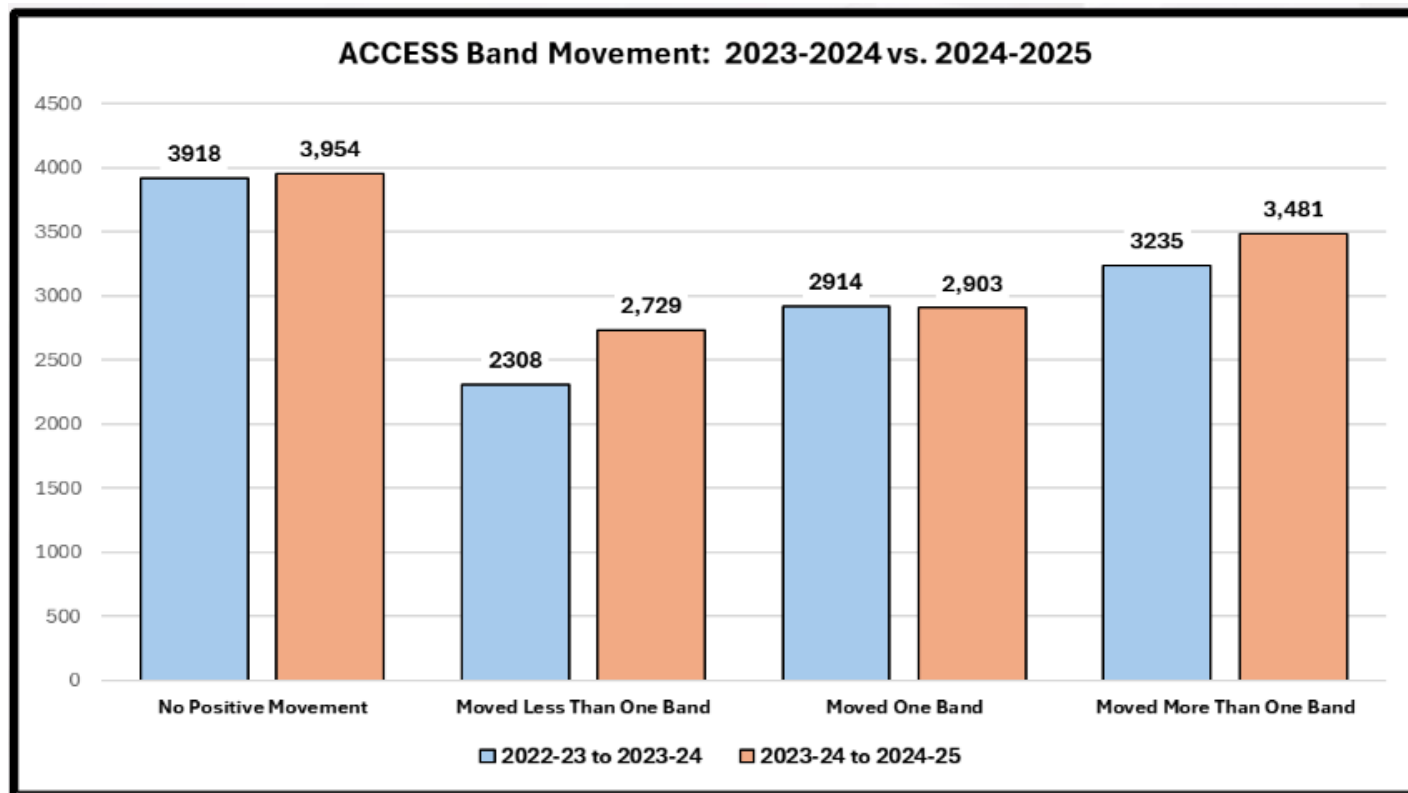


DCSD EL Exit Rate Data



Access Band to Band Movement

ACCESS Band Movement: 2023-2024 vs. 2024-2025 | Comparison of student language growth across ACCESS testing years



Interpretation & Translation Services Update

Total Services Provided

20,568

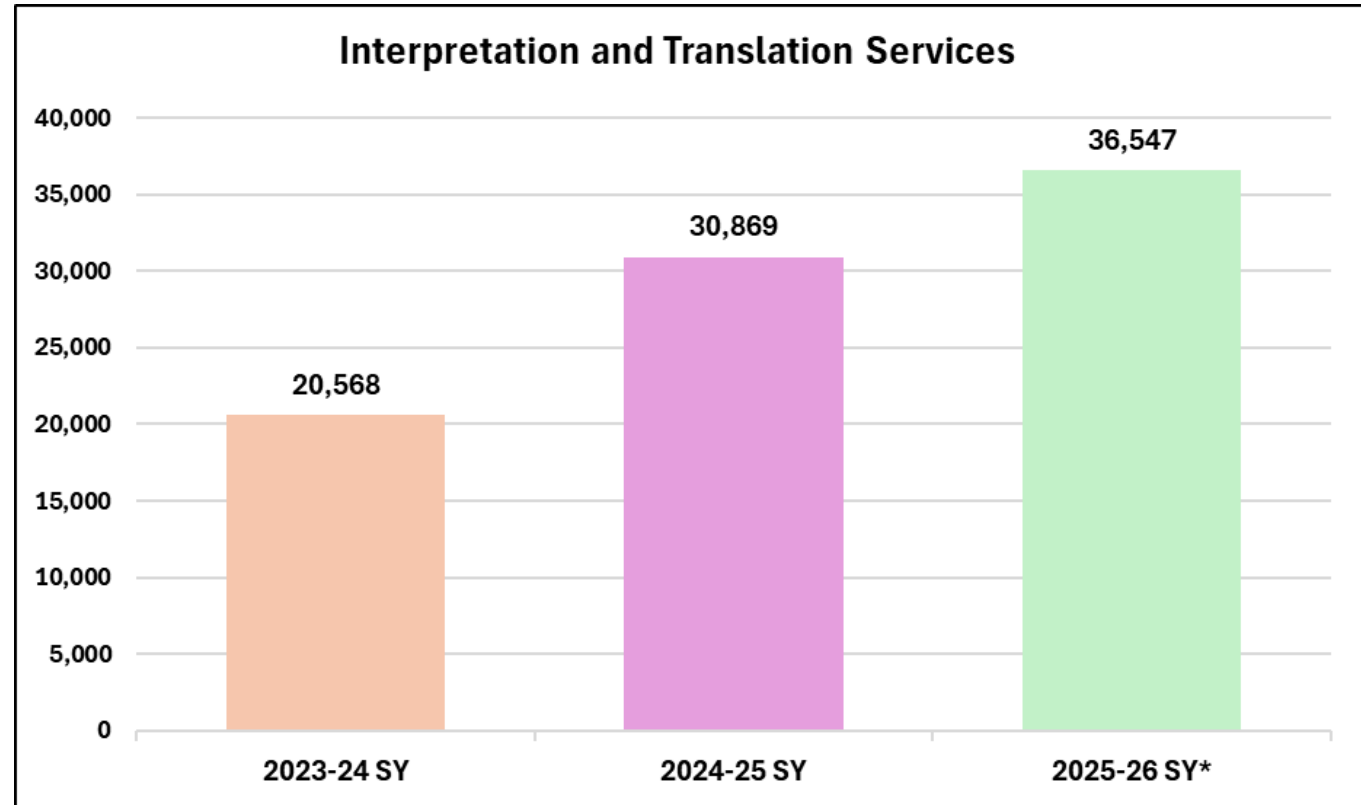
2023-24 SY

30,869

2024-25 SY

36,547

2025-26 SY*



Graduation Rate

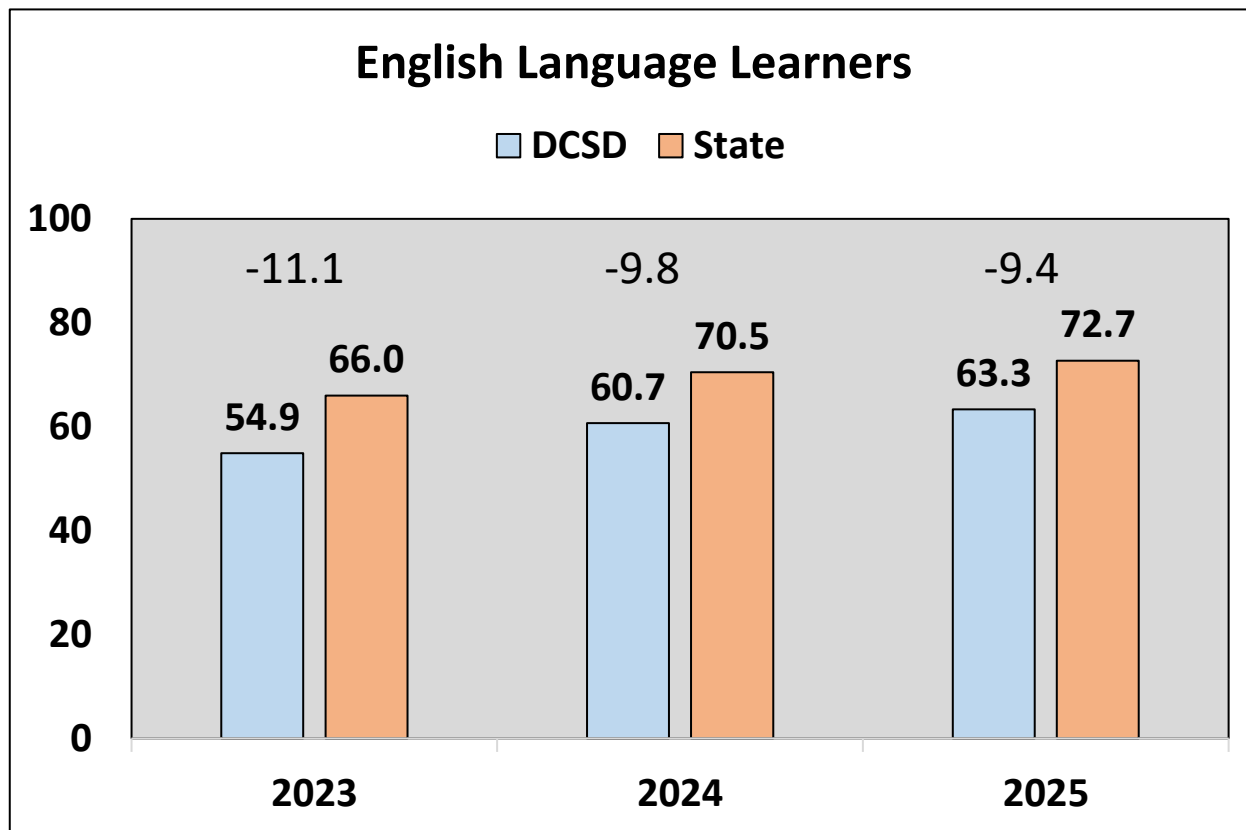
Four-Year Graduation Rates

Graduation Rate Trend



54.9% → 60.7% → 63.3%

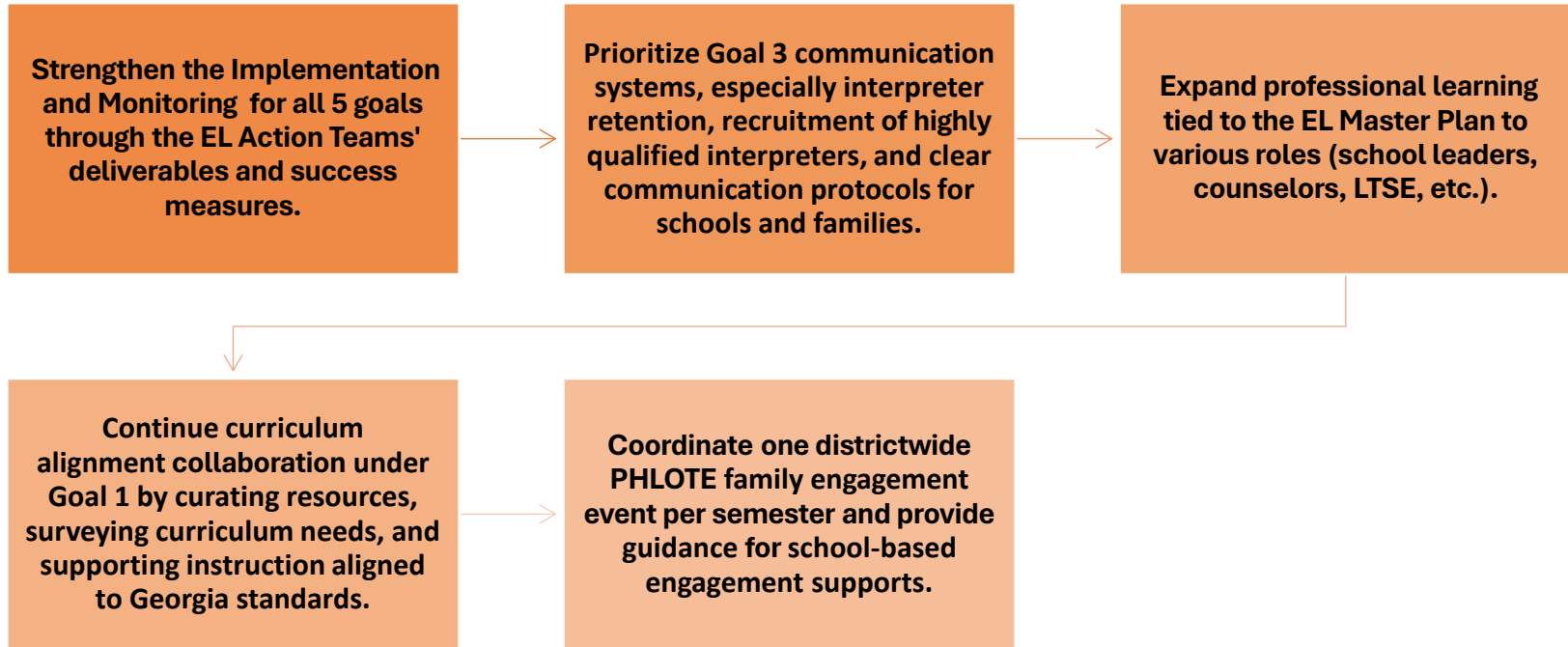
SY2023 · SY2024 · SY2025



Cross-Divisional Highlights

GOAL	EL ACTION TEAM ACTIVITIES
Goal 1	Collaborated with Teaching & Learning to integrate EL practices in DCSD's lesson plan template, new ELA curriculum, and literacy framework.
Goal 2	Planned and conducted cross-disciplinary (Math & ESOL) professional learning opportunities with multiple Divisions including Teaching and Learning, Wrap Around Services and Schools and Leadership
Goal 3	Conducted interpreter recruitment interviews; developed ESOL Communication protocol and training.
Goal 4	Created procedures, practices, and professional learning for administrators on ESOL scheduling.
Goal 5	Conducted EL Parent University sessions; provided guidance for school-based EL guardian engagement activities.

IMPACT FORECASTING - SY 2026-2027 NEXT STEPS



On the Road with the EL Master Plan

DCSD EL Master Plan Community Engagement

 Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Advisory Board

 Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) ESOL Munch & Learn

 Ethiopian Community Center English Learners Family Event

 Latin American Association English Learner Family Event



THANK YOU

Questions?

