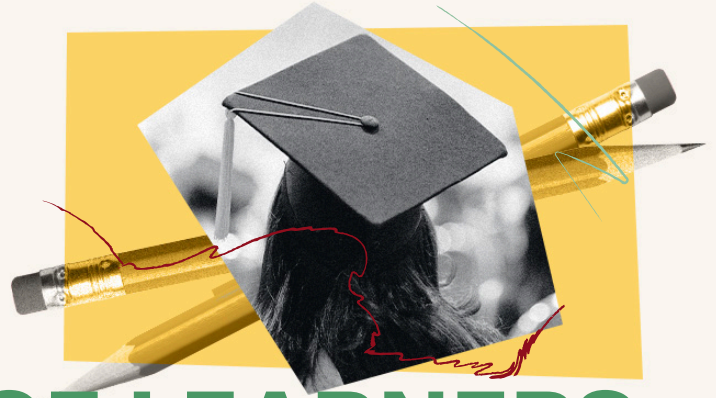


The *critical state* of **EDUCATION** for Delaware's **MULTI-LANGUAGE LEARNERS**



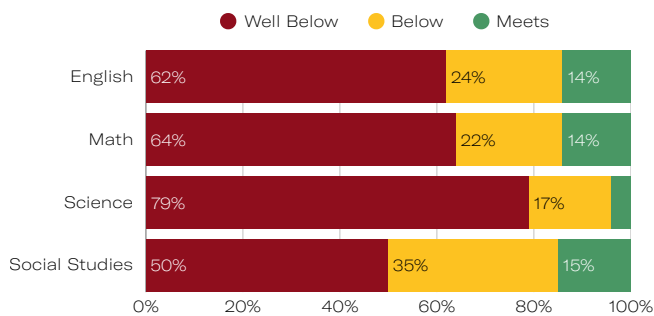
Multi-language learners (MLLs) are students who are developing proficiency in multiple languages, often with English being their second or third language.

The Delaware Constitution guarantees **all students** in Delaware have a legal right to an adequate education, *regardless* of their national origin or primary language.

ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT DELAWARE REPORT CARD, THE **OVERWHELMING MAJORITY** OF MLL STUDENTS ARE BELOW PROFICIENCY:

86% of MLL students are below proficiency for their grade level in English (ELA) and Math.

MLL "English Learner" Students Proficiency by Subject



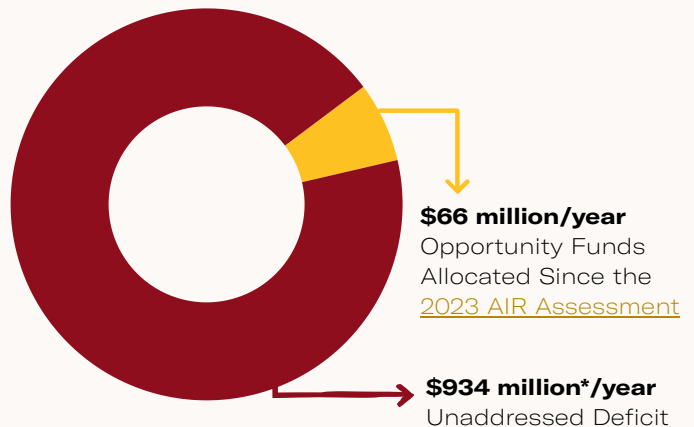
Current data from the Delaware Report Card Academic Proficiency in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies as of May 2026. reportcard.doe.k12.de.us



Learning deficits are **twice as high** for MLL students as they are for the general student population.

The settlement of the 2018 *Delawareans for Educational Opportunity v. Carney* lawsuit **mandated** that the State increase Opportunity Funding for MLL students **AND** ordered a holistic assessment of the Delaware public school finance system by an independent research organization.

SINCE RECEIVING THE ASSESSMENT THAT IDENTIFIED A CHRONIC UNDERFUNDING ISSUE, **THE STATE HAS YET TO PROPOSE A PLAN THAT WILL ADDRESS THE FULL EXTENT OF THE FUNDING DEFICIT.**



*Based on the up to \$1 billion deficit identified by the 2023 AIR Assessment.

“Delaware is **not investing enough in education to meet its educational goals...**

To provide all students the opportunity to succeed, more resources need to go to schools and districts to support low-income students, [students with disabilities], and [English learners].”

- *2023 AIR Assessment of Delaware Public School Funding: Executive Summary*

ALL 19 DELAWARE SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE MLL STUDENTS WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM A LACK OF FUNDING & RESOURCES.

The American Institutes for Research (AIR) found there are **low** correlations between MLLs and rates of absenteeism and suspension, but **high** correlations when it comes to poor assessment and dropout rates.

This suggests that, historically, MLL students attend school **more** than other need-based demographics, but still have **worse outcomes** than their peers.

Over 17,000 MLL Students

The [AIR Assessment](#) also revealed that **Delaware has a higher percentage of MLL students** than surrounding states: Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Despite this higher percentage of MLL students, Delaware schools lack sufficient administrators and educators with MLL expertise to appropriately assist them. MLL students require specialized instruction with educators who are trained in MLL education to ensure the best learning outcomes.



Quietly Suffering

MLL students are much more likely to be immigrants, or children of immigrants, who often face isolation at school due to language barriers and limited support.



THIS SITUATION IS CRITICAL.

Generations of students have been failed over the multiple years it has taken the State to address these issues. Legislators must treat the situation like the emergency that it is.