

# LANGUAGE ACCESS IN EDUCATION FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) STUDENTS

LANGUAGE ACCESS: THE ROAD TO NEWCOMER  
INTEGRATION  
April 25, 2016

# AGENDA

- **JustChildren Program**
- **Student's Language Access**
  - ESL/ESOL
  - Standards of Learning and Testing
  - Special Needs
- **Parents' Language Access**
  - School communications
  - Translation Services

# JUSTCHILDREN

- **Virginia's largest children's law program**
- **Legal representation for low-income children with unmet educational needs in:**
  - Education
  - Foster Care
  - Juvenile Justice & Discipline
- **Community Education and Outreach**
  - Educational Materials
  - Training and support for parents and advocates
- **Expanding to Northern Virginia, focusing on immigrant children's needs**

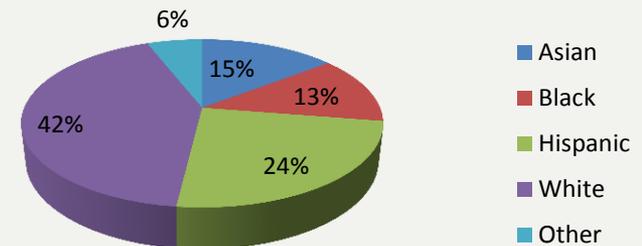
# KIDS IN NOVA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Northern Virginia School Districts

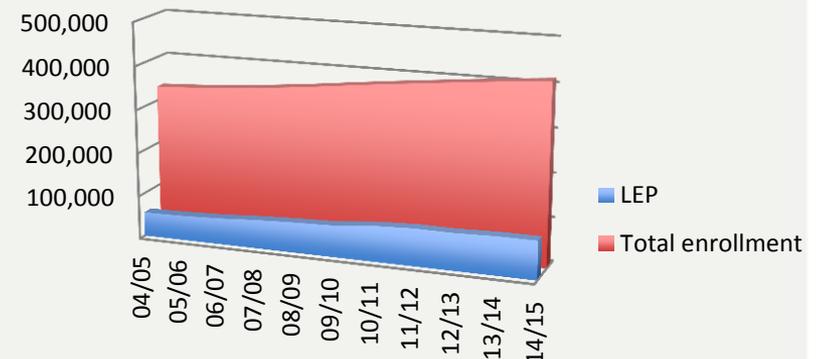
- Arlington County
- Alexandria City
- Fairfax County
- Falls Church City
- Loudon County
- Prince William County
- Stafford County

- 88,491 LEP students in NOVA last year
  - 47,435 students from Fairfax County
  - 18,853 students from Prince William County

## NOVA Enrollment by race 2014-2015



## NOVA LEP and Total Enrollment 2004-2015



# STUDENT LANGUAGE ACCESS

- **ESL/ESOL**
  - Why?
    - Right to access the school's programs = programs to help students overcome language barriers that affect school participation
  - What?
    - Intensive instruction in English (ESL/ESOL)
    - Must also be able to participate in other classes and activities with non-LEP students (e.g. physical education, art, music, etc.)
  - How?
    - School must identify students who need help learning English
    - Home Language Survey
    - Tested on speaking, reading, writing in English
    - Must be notified within 30 days of beginning of school year or 2 weeks after being placed in the program
    - Can remove child from a language program at any time

# STUDENT LANGUAGE ACCESS

- **Standards of Learning**
  - Proposed SOLs for English Language Proficiency
  - Same graduation requirements as all students
  - Some accommodations for LEP students available
- **Special Needs**
  - Language needs are not addressed by special education services, and should be separate
  - Students must have access to special education services if they need them regardless of language ability (no “waiting period”)
  - Special Education evaluations must be done in student’s native language

# PARENT/FAMILY LANGUAGE ACCESS

- **School communications**
  - The School must make an effort to give parents/caregivers important information in a language they understand
  - ESL Specialist or Liason
- **Translation Services**
  - Call the school to request interpreters for parent-teacher conferences
  - Request spoken or written translations of information sent home with student
  - Request an interpreter for important school meetings (IEP meetings, disciplinary hearings, etc.) – The school is **REQUIRED** to provide an interpreter for these meetings.



SIXTH  
EDITION

# HELPING YOU HELP YOUR CHILD:

## A FOCUS ON EDUCATION

Produced by JustChildren,  
A Children's Advocacy Program  
of the Legal Aid Justice Center

- Available in Spanish and English:
  - <https://www.justice4all.org/get-informed/reports-and-publications/>

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