

# UC Berkeley

## EL Facts

### Title

The Growth of California's Linguistic, Racial, and Ethnic Populations, 1986 - 2013

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### Author

Rumberger, Russell W.

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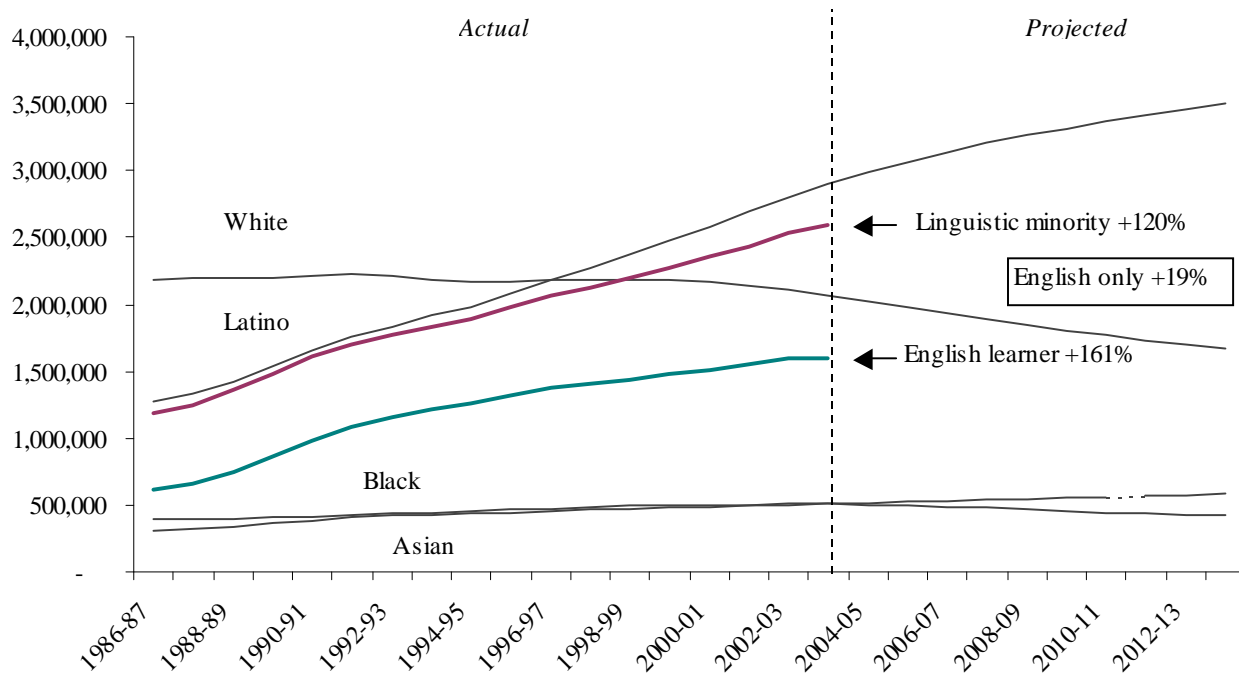
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California's school-age population is becoming more linguistically, racially, and ethnically diverse. Between 1986-87 and 2003-04, the enrollment of linguistic minority students—students from households where a language other than English is regularly spoken—increased 120 percent in California's public schools, or six times as fast as the 19 percent increase in enrollment of English-only students. The population of English learners—linguistic minorities who are not yet proficient in English—increased eight times as quickly. This growth was fueled by the 128 percent increase in Latino public school enrollment. During this same period, Asian enrollment increased 68 percent, Black enrollment increased 28 percent, and White enrollment declined by 6 percent.

The California Department of Finance projects that these trends in racial and ethnic public school enrollment will continue. In the ten-year period from 2003-04 to 2013-14, Latino enrollment is projected to increase by 21 percent and Asian enrollment is projected to increase by 15 percent, while Black enrollment is projected to decrease by 17 percent and White enrollment is projected to decrease by 19 percent. This will likely fuel a concurrent increase in the population of linguistic minorities.

Clearly, the future of California will depend on the state's willingness and ability to successfully educate its growing linguistic, racial, and ethnic populations.

**California K-12 Public School Enrollment by Language Background, Race, and Ethnicity, 1986-2013**



SOURCE: California Department of Finance, *California Public K-12 Enrollment Projections by Ethnicity: 2004 Series*, Retrieved September 29, 2005 from: <http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/Demograp/K12ethib.htm>; California Department of Education, *Language Census Report for California Public Schools*, various years and *Dataquest*, Retrieved September 29, 2005 from: <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.