



# Language Diversity in North Carolina

MARCH 2018

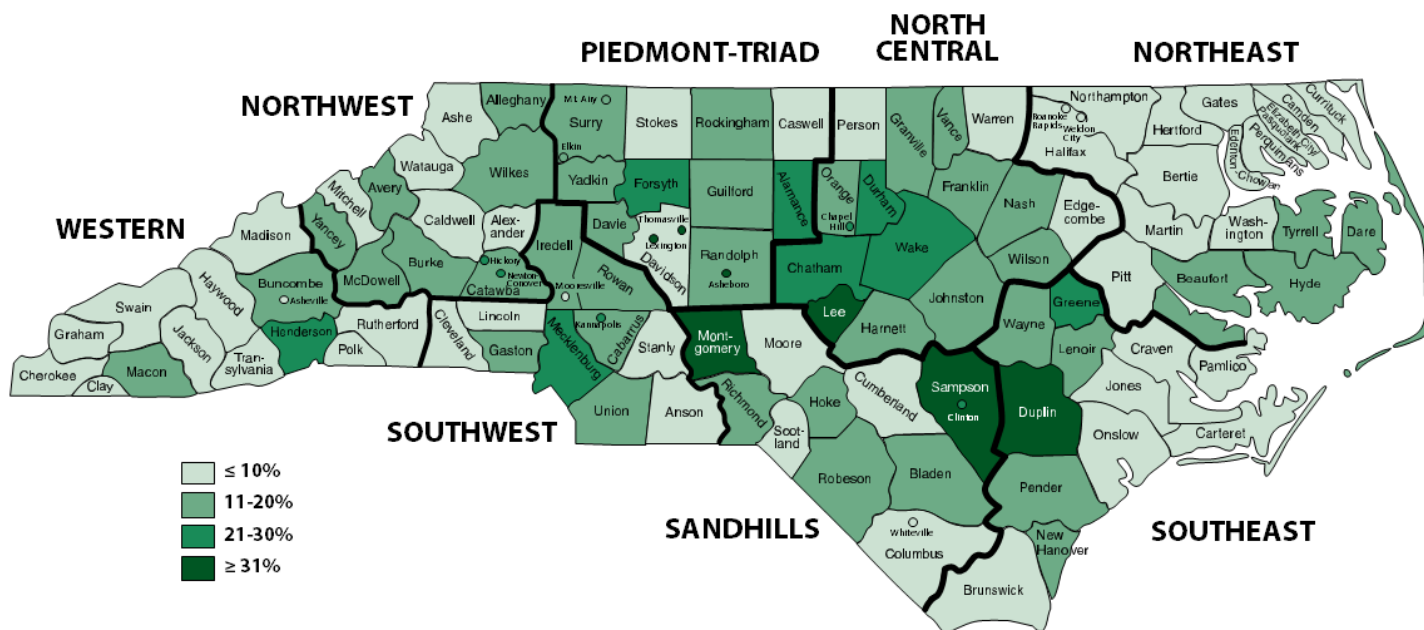
## Introduction

The state of North Carolina celebrates a diverse student population, and a quick snapshot reveals:

- About 255,948 students, approximately 17% of the total student population, report a primary language other than English spoken in the home.\*
- The October 1, 2017, Headcount Report to the General Assembly indicates that 108,664 students, approximately 7% of the total student population, are identified as having limited proficiency in English.
- The top 5 languages (and percent of total student population) spoken in the home other than English (83.29%) are: Spanish (13.3%), Arabic (0.43%), Vietnamese (0.26%), Chinese (0.24%), and Hindi/Indian/Urdu (0.20%).

## Percentage of Students with Primary Home Language Other than English

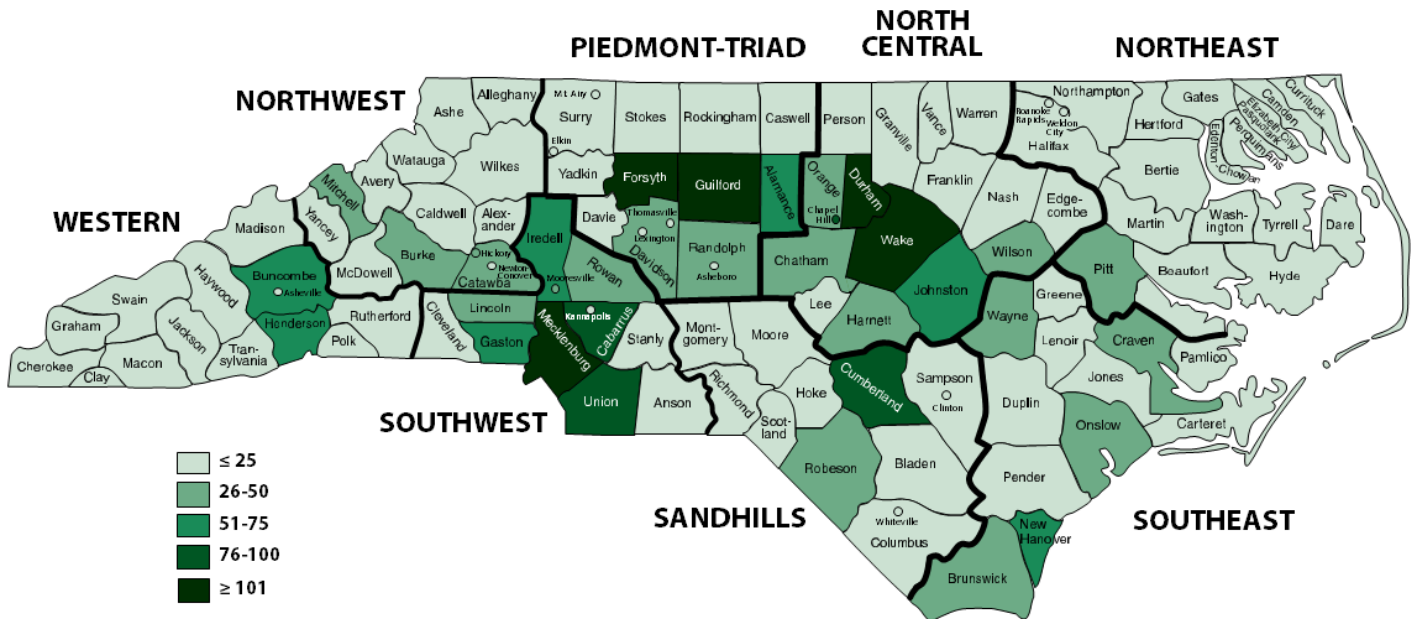
The map below shows the range by percentage of public school students with a primary home language other than English by Local Education Agency (LEA). Charter School students are represented within the county in which the school is located.\*



*\*The data was compiled from information in PowerSchool as reported on the Home Language Survey (March, 2018).*

## Number of Primary Home Languages

The map below shows the number of primary home languages of public school students by LEA. Charter School students are represented within the county in which the school is located. According to the Home Language Survey, there are at least 336 diverse languages spoken in the homes of public school students across North Carolina (March, 2018).



## Supporting Language Development in North Carolina Schools:

- Students who speak more than one language come to school with the globally competitive advantage of bilingualism or multilingualism and multicultural perspectives.
- 17 languages are taught as world languages in North Carolina public schools: American Sign Language (ASL), Ancient Greek, Arabic, Cherokee, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.
- Over 140 Dual Language/Immersion (DL/I) programs are currently offered in North Carolina:
  - The 7 languages in DL/I programs include: Cherokee, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Japanese, and Spanish.
  - The Thomas and Collier (2007-2010) North Carolina DL/I research shows: all students develop high levels of proficiency in the target language and English; academic performance of students is at or above grade level; and students demonstrate positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors.
- A variety of support for English Language Learner and other language acquisition and development programs are available for LEAs and Charter Schools across the state. Resources and types of support for language development and programs can be found at:
  - Dual Language/Immersion: <http://ncdliprograms.ncdpi.wikispaces.net>
  - English Language Development: <http://eldnces.ncdpi.wikispaces.net>
  - Global Education: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/globaled/>
  - World Languages: <http://wlnces.ncdpi.wikispaces.net>