

K-12 English Language Learners and the 2020 Census Statistics in Schools Program

Educator
Guide

The 2020 Census Statistics in Schools (SIS) program educates students about the decennial census and uses census data to teach them concepts and skills aligned with grade-level learning objectives. As the 2020 Census approaches, SIS is adding 67 new activities, among many other resources, to the program. This includes activities that are specially designed for English language learners (ELLs).

Can I use SIS activities in my classroom if some of my students are English language learners?

All English language learner (ELL) activities are adapted versions of the SIS activities created for native English speakers. This allows teachers with both native English speakers and English language learners in their classroom to use the same activity for all students, while providing targeted instruction for the English language learners. When you visit census.gov/schools to access SIS activities, you will see that some of the activities for each grade band have a corresponding ELL version. The ELL teacher's guide includes instructions for all students, so use that version if some of your students are English language learners. Download both versions of the student activity, and have each student use the appropriate version.



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How many ELL activities are available?

The K-12 activities that were created specifically for the 2020 Census SIS program are divided into five grade bands: K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and high school. There are two ELL activities for each grade band from kindergarten through eighth grade; for high school, there are four ELL activities.

How are the ELL activities different from the other activities?

The ELL teacher's guides include key concepts and vocabulary, suggested sentence starters for students to use, and specific information on how to teach English language learners throughout the activity. The ELL student activities include a word bank and a list of key vocabulary with corresponding visuals to demonstrate what each word means. In some cases, the ELL version of the student activity includes data charts that have already been filled in to allow the students more time to focus on vocabulary.

Why should I use these activities with the English language learners in my classroom?

All SIS activities help students prepare for an increasingly data-driven world. The more they understand how data impacts many things around them, the better prepared they will be for their future education and career. SIS activities also educate students about the decennial census and why it's important to be counted—a message they can take home and communicate to their parents and other adults in their home. Finally, these activities allow English language learners to engage with important content while learning relevant English vocabulary and practicing oral language.

Where can I access these activities?

To get started, visit census.gov/schools.



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