

**MEMORANDUM**

April 26, 2021

TO: Anna White  
Executive Director, Multilingual Programs

FROM: Allison Matney, Ed.D.  
Officer, Research and Accountability

SUBJECT: **2021 ENGLISH LEARNER VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS**

Each spring the Houston Independent School District (HISD) honors the valedictorians and salutatorians at each of its high schools. The valedictorian is a student who has earned the highest grade point average in his or her graduating class, and the salutatorian has the second highest grade point average. As part of its efforts to analyze the effectiveness of the district's programs for English Learners (ELs), the Research and Accountability Department identifies how many of these honorees had previously been in a bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) program (or are currently classified as an EL). The attached report summarizes findings concerning the EL history of the valedictorians and salutatorians from the class of 2021.

Key findings include:

- High schools in had a total of 51 valedictorians and 46 salutatorians in the senior class of 2021.
- Of these, 40.2 percent had been EL at some point during their enrollment in HISD. In comparison, the overall percentage of senior students in the district who had been EL at some point was 44.1 percent.
- Both of these values are in line with data from previous years, which show that since 2007 the percentage of valedictorians/salutatorians who have ever been EL is nearly the same as the overall percentage of seniors who have ever been EL (42.2% versus 42.4%).
- Twenty-nine of the valedictorians/salutatorians had started in a bilingual program, and seven had started in an ESL program. Furthermore, three had started out as EL but with a parental waiver.
- A total of six valedictorians/salutatorians had been classified as an immigrant student at some point.

Further distribution of this report is at your discretion. Should you have any further questions, please contact me at 713-556-6700.

  
AEM

Attachment

cc: Grenita Lathan  
Yolanda Rodriguez  
Khalilah Campbell

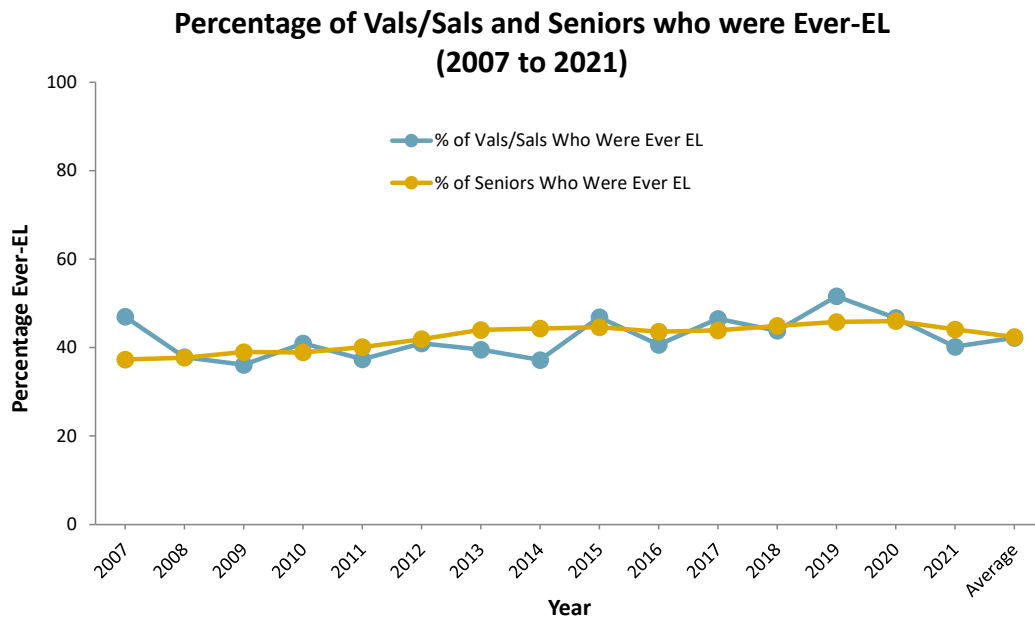
## FAST FACTS ENGLISH LEARNER VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS CLASS OF 2021

### Background Data Class of 2021

This brief report analyzes data concerning valedictorians and salutatorians from the class of 2021, and their English Learner (EL) status.

- High schools in the Houston Independent School District had a total of 51 valedictorians and 46 salutatorians in the senior class of 2021.
- Of these, 40.2% had been EL at some point during their enrollment at HISD (history covering the last 16 school years).
- In comparison, the overall percentage of senior students in the district who had been EL at some point was 44.1%.
- Both of these values are in line with data from previous years (see **Figure 1** below). Since 2007, the percentage of valedictorians/salutatorians who have ever been EL is nearly the same as the overall percentage of seniors who have ever been EL (42.2% versus 42.4%).

**Figure 1. Percentage of valedictorians/salutatorians and district seniors who have ever been EL, class of 2007 to class of 2021**



### Valedictorians: Original EL Program

- **Table 1** (next page) shows summary data for valedictorians from the graduating classes of 2001 through 2021.
- In 2021, 37% of valedictorians (19 students) began enrollment as ELs (history covering 16 school years).
- Fourteen of these students began enrollment in a bilingual program, and three started in an ESL program (two had started as waived).
- None of the valedictorians had been coded as immigrant in the previous 16 years (Public Education Information Management System records).

**Table 1. District valedictorians who started as EL students (class of 2001 to class of 2021)**

YEAR	VALEDICTORIANS STARTED IN BILINGUAL PRGM	VALEDICTORIANS STARTED IN ESL PRGM	EX IMMIGRANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF EX EL
2001	10	3	6	13
2002	6	4	5	10
2003	7	6	9	13
2004	9	4	4	13
2005	9	2	2	11
2006	6	3	4	9
2007	9	6	8	15
2008	10	3	6	13
2009	8	2	5	10
2010	13	4	6	17
2011	7	8	7	15
2012	8	6	7	14
2013	13	7	3	20
2014	9	5	7	14
2015	20	5	10	25
2016	12	9	6	21
2017	14	10	9	24
2018	19	3	7	22
2019	15	7	7	23
2020	15	6	4	21
2021	14	3	0	19

- Comparable data for salutatorians is shown in **Table 2**.
- In 2021, 43% of salutatorians (20 students) began enrollment as ELs.
- Fifteen of these students began enrollment in a bilingual program, four started in an ESL program, and one started out as waived. Six salutatorians had been immigrant students at some point.

**Table 2. District salutatorians who started as EL students (class of 2004 to class of 2021)**

YEAR	SALUTATORIANS STARTED IN BILINGUAL PRGM	SALUTATORIANS STARTED IN ESL PRGM	EX IMMIGRANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF EX EL
2004	7	4	5	10
2005	11	2	7	13
2006	7	2	2	9
2007	9	7	7	16
2008	12	3	3	15
2009	6	6	2	12
2010	11	4	1	15
2011	10	5	8	15
2012	14	6	7	20
2013	10	4	5	14
2014	8	10	8	18
2015	14	6	6	20
2016	16	2	6	18
2017	12	11	8	23
2018	12	5	5	20
2019	21	4	7	26
2020	14	6	6	21
2021	15	4	6	20