**Assessment and Identification of LEP Customers in the Rural Capital Workforce Development Area***Prepared December 1, 2017*

This report provides a summary of the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population distribution throughout the 9-county Rural Capital Workforce Development Area of Texas by using the most recently released US Census Data 1, 2, and PEIMS data for the 2016-2017 school year provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) 3, 4 which identifies the ‘Home Language’ of school-going populations by county. The first data set from the US Census Bureau – *2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates* – provides information for our smaller and midsize counties (Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, and Llano) while most of the data for our largest county (Williamson) is derived from the more recent *2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*. This second data set contains more current population estimates for our most urban county (consisting of approximately 56.1% of the entire Rural Capital Area population) and, therefore, provides a more accurate view of the dynamic areas of population within the Rural Capital Area. The English Language Learner data from TEA is intended to provide a confirmation of the primary Census data by highlighting the percentage of children in our local school districts who have a ‘Home Language’ other than English. However, several of the current TEA county data sets show large changes from previous years that are likely the result of changes in reporting procedures by local school districts rather than actually changes in the local LEP population.

**Overview**

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| ***Language Spoken at Home – Rural Capital Area 1, 2*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 878,588 | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 688,078  | 78.3  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 190,510  | 21.7  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **58,240**  | **6.6**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 149,644  | 17.0  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **46,907** | **5.3** |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 20,484  | 2.3 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **3,517** | **0.4** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 17,861  | 2.0  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **7,226**  | **0.8**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Languages** | 2,521  | 0.3  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **590**  | **0.1** |

As previously stated, data sets for all nine counties of the Rural Capital Area were made available either through the use of the *2011 –2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates* or the *2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*. In these datasets information concerning ‘Language Spoken at Home’ and a measurement of those that ‘Speak English less than very well’ provide a measurement of limited English proficiency taken from the subset of the population 5 years and over (*see table at right*). While not every member of this subset would be eligible for services within our workforce centers, it does capture the part of the youth population 14-years-old and older who can participate in center programs. As for the remaining portion, using an over-estimation ensures that no significant LEP populations are left out of language accommodations being made within our centers.

The addition of 2016 US Census estimates for Williamson County has provided up-to-date information concerning LEP persons in our largest county. **Individually listed language populations in the Williamson County section, however, have been taken from the 2011 – 2015 five-year estimates.** This is due to the fact that the 2016 Census data does not provide an update at that level. These groups held steady **as a percentage of the overall County population**, whereas overall non-English speaking language groups in the Rural Capital Area – *including Spanish speakers* – showed a modest increase.

While the ‘English Only’ population in the Rural Capital Area increased from the previous assessment by 3.1%, it actually decreased 0.2% as a percentage of population from 78.5 to 78.3%. Conversely, those who spoke a language other than English at home increased by 7,326 persons – a 4.0% rise. **Yet even as the population of non-English speakers continues to grow, those who speak English ‘less than very well’ showed a decrease of 0.6% as a percentage of the population.** This would seem to indicate that the population of persons who have fueled the Rural Capital Area’s growth (and Williamson County specifically) over previous years contain less non-English speaking immigrants and/or that a part of this population has moved out of area. The Rural Capital Area’s largest non-English population - Spanish language speakers – grew by 6,320 (4.4%) and increased by 0.2% as a percentage of the population. ‘Other Indo-European’ language speakers grew most significantly from the previous year – by 21.8% - but those within this group that spoke English ‘less than very well’ remained steady (0.2% growth) and well below the threshold that would indicate a significant LEP population. While the ‘Asian & Pacific Island’ language group showed a strong decline in overall numbers (-8.7%), those identified as speaking English ‘less than very well’ actually continued to grow at 0.9% as a percentage of the population.

As with the previous year’s assessment, certain segments of the ‘Asian & Pacific Islands’ LEP group continued to mark themselves as significant in numbers. While Korean LEP speakers declined by -0.8%, from the previous year, **Chinese and Vietnamese speakers in Williamson County are both groups that have risen above the critical ‘1,000 LEP speaker’ threshold signifying a significant LEP population**. However, all three continue to be integrated into our service response to LEP populations.

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| ***English Language Learners – Rural Capital Area 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (PK-12)** | 189,451  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 18,507  | 9.8  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 17,050  | 9.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 722\* | 0.4  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 706\* | 0.4  |
| **Other Languages** | 29\* | 0.0  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

Enrollment and language information provided by the Texas Education Agency for the 2016-2017 school-year in general matches previous year numbers and percentages of individual English Language Learners in the Rural Capital Area (.05% increase), even though overall enrollment shows a strong 2.8% increase. The remaining data strongly strengthens our understanding that Spanish speakers remain the primary source of persons with limited English proficiency, with Spanish-speaking English Language Learners growing its percentage proportion of the overall population though an increase in individual numbers of 1,917 ELL students. While students categorized as ‘Other Indo-European Language Speakers’ saw an incredible increase of 62.6% increase, they remained steady as a percentage of the population.

It should be noted that the percentage of students with limited English proficiency that could be inferred from this dataset is likely under-reported since some parents may not indicate a non-English home language on the survey out of fear that their child will be treated unfairly and/or that they may not have the opportunity to learn English fluently in a school setting. Further, the significant increase in ELL students within some counties could very well be a result of more consistent reporting methods rather than an actual increase in the student population.

Asterisks in the number column for this dataset indicate that when the number of persons indicating a non-English home language in a specific grade level was less than 5 but greater than 0 (in each County), TEA masked that data with “N/A” to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Therefore, numbers reported with the asterisk should actually be higher, but not significantly so.

**Individual County Analysis**

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| --- |
| ***Language Spoken at Home – Bastrop County 1*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 72,081 | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 52,555  | 72.9  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 19,526  | 27.1  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **7,197**  | **10.0**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 17,925  | 24.9  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **6,593** | **9.1**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 1,089  | 1.5  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **418** | **0.6** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 499  | 0.7  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **186**  | **0.3**  |
| **Other Languages** | 13  | 0.0  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **0**  | **0.0** |

BASTROP – At 27.1%, the portion of the county population that speaks a language other than English at home is even with the area-wide average, but a higher portion of the population exists who are listed as having limited English proficiency which make up 10% of the population. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 24.9%. Of these, **Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 9.1% of the county population**. All other categories of LEP speakers number fewer than 1,000 each and are less than 5% of the total county population.

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| ***English Language Learners – Bastrop County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 16,212  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 3,519  | 21.7  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 3,519  | 21.7  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| **Other Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

With 21.7% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts, the trend is more than double the area-wide pattern seen in the US Census figures and represents a large migrant community in Bastrop County. However, immersion in an English-taught curriculum that provides greater opportunity for language growth will assist these students to exit the LEP population sooner than older relatives. **Here as is the case across the Rural Capital Area, Spanish speakers make up the only significant LEP population within the county’s schools.**

In comparison to figures from the 2016-2017 LEP Assessment, the category of those speaking a ‘Language other than English’ increased by 2.9% while the population in Bastrop County reported as LEP actually decreased by -7.6%, which may indicate a leveling off of migrant in-flow into the county over this past year.

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| --- |
| ***Language Spoken at Home – Blanco County 1*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 10,266  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 8,737  | 85.1  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 1,529  | 14.9  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **655**  | **6.4**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 1,340  | 13.1  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **572** | **5.6**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 143  | 1.4  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **39** | **0.4** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 42 | 0.4 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **40**  | **0.4**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Languages** | 4  | 0.0  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **4**  | **0.0** |
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| ***English Language Learners – Blanco County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 1,673  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 95  | 5.7  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 95 | 5.7  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 0 | 0.0  |
| **Other Languages** | 0 | 0.0  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

BLANCO – At 14.9%, the portion of the Blanco County population that speaks a language other than English at home is level with figures reported in the 2016-2017 LEP Assessment. However, this is lower than the area-wide average of 21.7%. Conversely, the percentage of those of limited English proficiency, stands at 6.4% of the population and compares evenly to the area-wide average of 6.6%. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 13.1%. Of these, **Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 5.6% of the county population**. All other categories of LEP speakers number fewer than 1,000 each and are less than 5% of the total county population.

With 5.7% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts, the LEP population in Blanco County schools stayed relatively the same in comparison to the previous year and yet, still remains below the overall non-English speaking population average. **There are no** **significant LEP populations within the county’s schools.**

Even though Blanco County customers are served out of other workforce centers, the Spanish speaking LEP population in Blanco County continues to be a large enough percentage of the total county population to warrant continued efforts to outreach and provide meaningful access to center services to these potential customers.

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| ***Language Spoken at Home – Burnet County 1*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 41,765  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 35,651  | 85.4  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 6,114 | 14.6 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **2,561**  | **6.1** |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 5,804  | 13.9  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **2,450** | **5.9**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 206  | 0.5  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **49** | **0.1** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 6  | 0.0 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **0**  | **0.0**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Languages** | 98  | 0.2  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **62**  | **0.2** |

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| ***English Language Learners – Burnet County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 7,021  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 777  | 11.1  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 777 | 11.1  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| **Other Languages** | 0 | 0.0 |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

BURNET – At 14.6%, the portion of the county population that speaks a language other than English at home is lower than the area-wide average, while those of limited English proficiency make up a closer-to-average 6.1% of the population. Both of these proportional figures represent a slight decrease in comparison to the previous LEP assessment. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 13.9%. Of these, **Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 5.9% of the county population**. All other categories of LEP speakers number fewer than 1,000 each and are less than 5% of the total county population.

With 11.1% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts, this figure is slightly higher than the overall Census Bureau data. **Here as well, Spanish speakers make up the only significant LEP population within the county’s schools.**

While the decrease as a percentage of the population of homes that speak a language other than English (as well as the decrease amongst the LEP population) was not statistically significant, this represents the first decline in these reported numbers over the past 5 years. The Spanish speaking LEP population in Burnet County, however, continues to be large enough that efforts to outreach and provide meaningful access to workforce center services to these potential customers should be made part of center operations.

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| --- |
| ***Language Spoken at Home – Caldwell County 1*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 36,991  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 25,528  | 69.0 |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 11,463  | 31.0  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **3,667**  | **9.9**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 11,177  | 30.2  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **3,580** | **9.7**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 197 | 0.5  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **38** | **0.1** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 49 | 0.1 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **14**  | **0.0**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Languages** | 40  | 0.1  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **35**  | **0.1** |

CALDWELL – At 31%, the portion of the county population that speaks a language other than English at home continues to be considerably higher than the area-wide average, as are those of limited English proficiency which make up 9.9% of the population. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 30.2%. Of these, **Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 9.7% of the county population**. All other categories of LEP speakers number fewer than 1,000 each and are less than 5% of the total county population.

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| ***English Language Learners – Caldwell County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 6,940  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 1,224  | 17.6  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 1,224 | 17.6  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| **Other Languages** | 0 | 0.0  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

The 17.6% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts is higher than the area-wide average. **Here as well, Spanish speakers make up the only significant LEP population within the county’s schools.**

As a result of the large Spanish speaking LEP population in Caldwell County, efforts to outreach and provide meaningful access to workforce center services to these potential customers should be made part of center operations.

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| ***Language Spoken at Home – Fayette County 1*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 23,545  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 19,290  | 81.9 |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 4,255 | 18.1  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **1,107**  | **4.7**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 3,653  | 15.5  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **993** | **4.2**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 548  | 2.3  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **86** | **0.4** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 28  | 0.1 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **28** | **0.1**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Languages** | 26  | 0.1  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **0**  | **0.0** |

FAYETTE – At 18.1%, the portion of the county population that speaks a language other than English at home is slightly lower than the area-wide average, as are those of limited English proficiency which make up 4.7% of the population. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 15.5%. Of these, **Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 4.2% of the county population**. All other categories of LEP speakers number fewer than 1,000 each and are less than 5% of the total county population.

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| --- |
| ***English Language Learners – Fayette County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 3,701 | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 358  | 9.7  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 358 | 9.7  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| **Other Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

With 9.7% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts, the trend matches pattern seen in the US Census figures, if slightly higher. **Here as well, Spanish speakers make up the only significant LEP population within the county’s schools.**

The Spanish speaking LEP population of Fayette County continues to increase at the expense proportionally of other language speaking groups. As a result, efforts to outreach and provide meaningful access to workforce center services to potential Spanish speaking LEP customers should be made part of center operations.

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| ***Language Spoken at Home – Hays County 1*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 166,535  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 125,732  | 75.5 |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 40,803  | 24.5  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **12,209** | **7.3** |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 36,722  | 22.1  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **11,336** | **6.8**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 2,240  | 1.3  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **366** | **0.2** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 1,560  | 0.9 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **507** | **0.3**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Languages** | 281 | 0.2  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **0**  | **0.0** |

HAYS – At 24.5%, the portion of the county population that speaks a language other than English at home is higher than the area-wide average, as is the population reporting limited English proficiency which makes up 7.3% of the population. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 22.1%. Of these, **Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 6.8% of the county population**.

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| ***English Language Learners – Hays County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 34,964  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 3,742  | 10.7  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 3,736 | 10.7  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 6 | 0.0  |
| **Other Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

With 10.7% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts, the trend is slightly higher than seen in the US Census figures. This may simply be a result of larger LEP child-to-parent ratio than other areas. **Here as well, Spanish speakers make up the only significant LEP population within the county’s schools.**

As a result of the large Spanish speaking LEP population in Hays County, efforts to outreach and provide meaningful access to workforce center services to these potential customers should be made part of center operations.

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| --- |
| ***Language Spoken at Home – Lee County 1*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 15,742  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 12,841  | 81.6 |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 2,901  | 18.4  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **1,170**  | **7.4**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 2,518  | 16.0  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **1,057** | **6.7** |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 303 | 1.9  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **69** | **0.4** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 77  | 0.5 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **41**  | **0.3**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Languages** | 3 | 0.0 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **3**  | **0.0** |

LEE – At 18.4%, the portion of the county population that speaks a language other than English at home is slightly lower that the area-wide average, while those of limited English proficiency, which make up 7.4% of the population, is higher than the average. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 16%. Of these, **Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 6.7% of the county population**.

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| --- |
| ***English Language Learners – Lee County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 2,963  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 335  | 11.3  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 335 | 11.3  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| **Other Languages** | 0 | 0.0  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

With 11.3% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts, these figures indicate a higher than average portion of the population which is in line with the higher LEP population average in the county at large. **However, the total of persons identified as LEP in the county actually and in area schools fell from the previous year**, according to US Census figures. **Here as well, Spanish speakers make up the only significant LEP population within the county’s schools.**

The Spanish speaking LEP population in Lee County is a large enough percentage of the total population that efforts to outreach and provide meaningful access to workforce center services to these potential customers should continue to be made.

|  |
| --- |
| ***Language Spoken at Home – Llano County 1*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 18,522  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 17,351  | 93.7 |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 1,171 | 6.3  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **462** | **2.5**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 1,016  | 5.5  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **363** | **2.0**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 81 | 0.4  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **35** | **0.2** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 74  | 0.4 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **64** | **0.3** |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Languages** | 0 | 0.0  |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **0**  | **0.0** |

LLANO – At 6.3%, the portion of the county population that speaks a language other than English at home is considerably lower than the area-wide average, as are those of limited English proficiency which make up 2.5% of the population. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 5.5%. Of these, Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 2% of the county population. All other categories of LEP speakers number fewer than 1,000 each and are less than 5% of the total county population.

|  |
| --- |
| ***English Language Learners – Llano County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 1,781 | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 88  | 4.9  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 88 | 4.9  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | N/A\* | N/A\*  |
| **Other Languages** | 0 | 0.0  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

With 4.9% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts, the trend is half of the area-wide average. **There are no** **significant LEP populations within the county’s schools.**

As a result of the low LEP population in Llano County, no additional efforts to outreach specific non-English language populations are foreseen as necessary. **However, since the percentage of the school population that reports Spanish as the language spoken at home continues to stand at 4.9% (according to TEA data), efforts to ensure that information and translation services are available to Spanish-speakers should continue.**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Language Spoken at Home – Williamson County 1, 2***  |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **Population 5 Years and Over** | 493,141  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **English Only** | 390,393  | 79.2 |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 102,748  | 20.8  |
| Speak English less than 'very well' | **29,212**  | **5.9**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 69,489  | 14.1  |
| Speak English less than 'very well' | **19,963** | **4.1**  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 15,677 | 3.2  |
| Speak English less than 'very well' | **2,417** | **0.5** |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 15,526  | 3.1 |
| Speak English less than 'very well' | **6,346**  | **1.3**  |
| * **Chinese (Mandarin & Cantonese)**
 | 3,226 | 0.7 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **1,368** | **0.3** |
| * **Vietnamese**
 | 2,411 | 0.5 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **1,208** | **0.2** |
| * **Korean**
 | 1,398 | 0.3 |
|  Speak English less than 'very well' | **772** | **0.2** |
| **Other Languages** | 2,056 | 0.4  |
| Speak English less than 'very well' | **486**  | **0.1** |

WILLIAMSON – At 20.8%, the portion of the county population that speaks a language other than English at home is on par with the area-wide average, as are those of limited English proficiency which make up 5.9% of the population. The predominant non-English language spoken in the county is Spanish at 14.1%. Of these, **Spanish speakers who have limited English proficiency make up 4.1% of the county population and declined slightly in number to 19,963 from the previous year**.

The 7.3% of school-age children speaking a language other than English who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts is lower than the overall LEP population average (at 9%). **Currently, Spanish speakers make up the only significant LEP population within the county’s schools.**

|  |
| --- |
| ***English Language Learners – Williamson County 3, 4*** |
|  | **Number** | **%** |
|  |  |  |
| **County School-Age Enrollment (K-12)** | 114,196  | 100.0  |
|  |  |  |
| **Language Other Than English** | 8,369  | 7.3  |
|  |  |  |
| **Spanish** | 6,918 | 6.1  |
|  |  |  |
| **Other Indo-European Languages** | 722 | 0.6  |
|  |  |  |
| **Asian & Pacific Island Languages** | 700 | 0.6  |
| **Other Languages** | 29 | 0.0  |
| *\* Counts less than 5 and greater than 0 in any grade are masked by with* *“N/A” to comply with FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)* |

 In addition to the Spanish-speaking LEP population, **the Chinese (Mandarin) and Vietnamese LEP populations in Williamson County have both risen above 1,000 marking them by definition as significant** and indicating that efforts to outreach and provide meaningful access to workforce center services to these potential customers should be made part of center operations. While no other specific group of LEP-speakers number more than 1,000 or 5% of the total population of Williamson County based upon the most recent data available, **the Korean LEP language population remains close and therefore bears continued attention**.

Even with a decline from the previous year to 772 persons of limited English proficiency, **the Korean population continues to be the largest share of Asian language students who require some level of English as a Second Language (ESL) services in local school districts)**, followed by the Vietnamese and Chinese (Mandarin) populations.

**Summary**

In the 9-county Rural Capital Area, all counties – with the exception of Llano – harbor a significant enough number of Spanish speaking persons of limited English proficiency that a concerted, reasonable effort to ensure their ability to understand and access workforce center services is warranted. In addition, the Chinese (Mandarin) and Vietnamese LEP populations in Williamson County remain above the mandatory LEP population threshold in the latest US Census estimates which requires that these language groups be considered when developing translated materials for the communication of benefits and services to customers within our largest county. With the Korean population remaining close to the LEP threshold (which would mark them as significant), it would be proactive to include them as well when producing translated materials.

In comparison with the previous year’s LEP Customer Assessment, the overall population of the Rural Capital Area continued to grow, however, for the first time in more than 5 years of tracking LEP populations through these sources, persons measured who ‘speak English less than very well’ declined by 2,806 area-wide, even though the number of persons who ‘speak a language other than English at home’ grew by the amount of 7,326. The data explored here seems to indicate a ‘pause’ in the growth of migrant populations in the Rural Capital Area even as the population at large continues its impressive expansion. While many factors could be at work to explain this phenomenon, given the previous strong growth of LEP populations and the local economy over the past several years, immigrant population growth during this prior year may have been impacted by a change in federal and state policies and regulations that deal with immigration.

Over all, a number of Asian language speakers remain a dominant feature in the communication characteristic of the Rural Capital Area and continue to see their numbers rise. It is clear that continued outreach to these diverse populations is warranted as trends change with the economic landscape. Consideration of these languages should remain to be a regular point of concern in the Williamson County workforce center as part of any future strategy over the next several years.

**Data Sources**

1 US Census Bureau, “2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates”,

“Language Spoken At Home By Ability To Speak English For The Population 5 Years And

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2 US Census Bureau, “2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates”,

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Over”, https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/

productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\_16\_1YR\_B16004&prodType=table>

3 Texas Education Agency – Public Education Information Management System, “PEIMS

Standard Reports”, “2016-2017 ELL Student Reports by Language and Grade”,

< https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/cgi/sas/broker >

4 Texas Education Agency – Public Education Information Management System, “PEIMS

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< https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/adhocrpt/adste.html>