



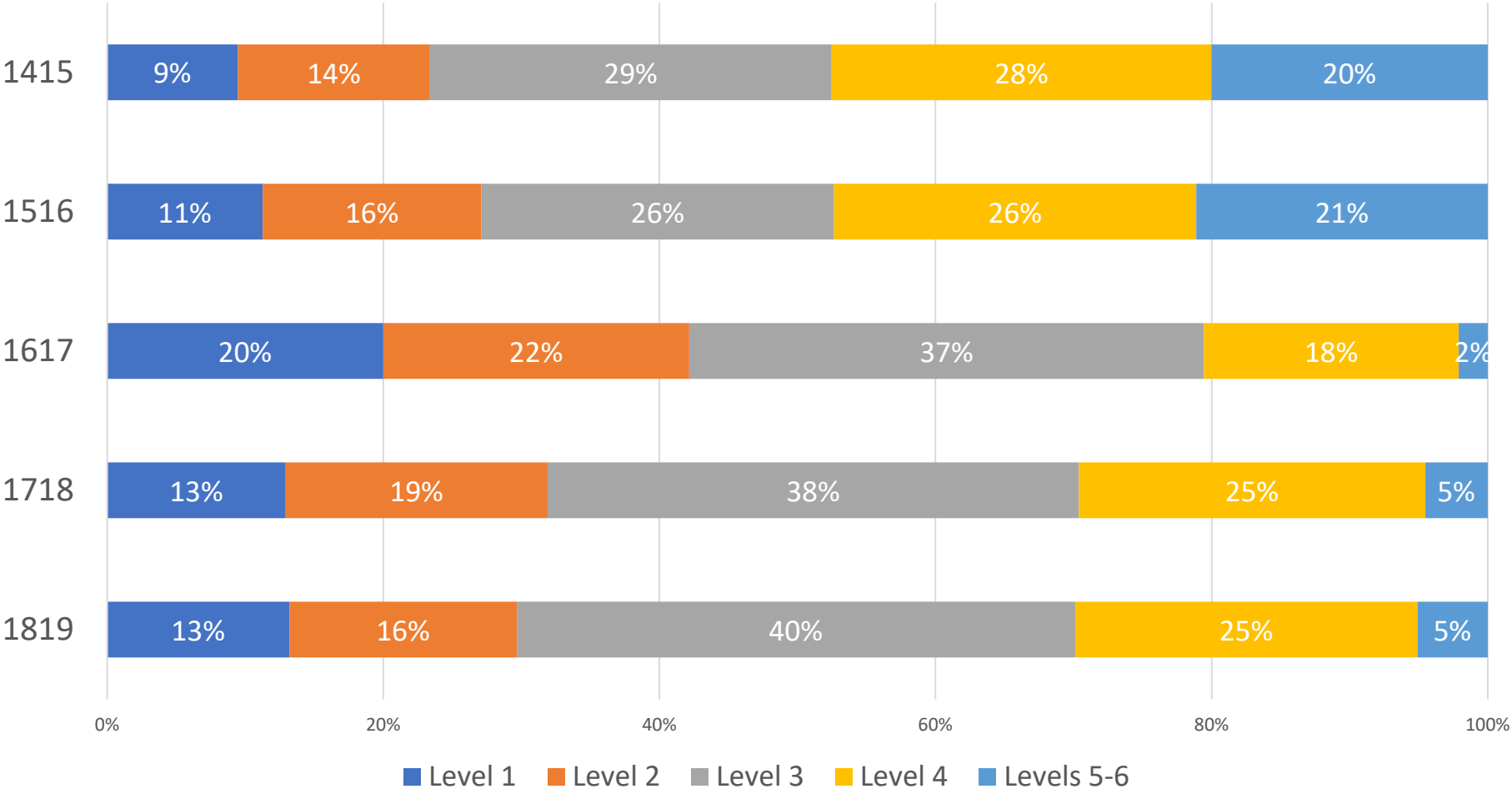
# EL Exit Criteria Change

*2021-22 School Year*

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# How has the ACCESS assessment changed?

ACCESS Proficiency Levels, by Year



# EL Exit Criteria Change

- Current State:** English Learners (ELs) must score a 5.0 on the ACCESS assessment to exit EL status.
- New policy beginning in 2021-22 school year:** ELs in grades 1-12 must score a 4.5 to exit EL status.
  - We are not lowering expectations of students.
    - A score of 5.0 on ACCESS now aligns with a 5.9-6.0 on the previous version of ACCESS. A score of 4.5 on ACCESS now aligns with a 5.1-5.5 on the previous version of ACCESS.
  - We want to ensure that students are appropriately identified and not receiving services they do not need.
  - The kindergarten (K) assessment did not change; the K criterion remains at a 5.0.
- Timing:** This policy will take effect with the spring 2022 ACCESS assessment, which will affect EL statuses in the 2022-23 school year. This policy change is NOT retroactive.

# Student Benefit

**Students should receive EL services only when they are beneficial.**

- The WIDA consortium reset standards in SY2016-17, making it far more challenging to score a 5.0 or higher.
- ELs in DC who score a 4.5+ on ACCESS score similarly on the PARCC English language arts assessment as students who are not ELs.
- EL students who would succeed in the general classroom but receive EL-related services tend to have worse long-term academic outcomes.
- LEAs can still return students to EL status if they determine that they require those services to succeed in the general classroom.

School Year	# of students exiting	# of students testing	% of students exiting
2014-15	1223	5921	20.7%
2015-16	1334	6195	21.5%
2016-17	159	6714	2.4%
2017-18	354	7452	4.8%
2018-19	414	8097	5.1%