



Nassau BOCES Virtual SIFE Academy

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Overview



Meet Darlyn
Age: 17
Country: Guatemala

Students with Interrupted/Inconsistent Formal Education (SIFE)

Students with Inconsistent/Interrupted Formal Education shall mean English Language Learners who have attended schools in the United States for less than twelve months and who, upon initial enrollment in such schools are two or more years below grade level in literacy in their home language and/or two or more years below grade level in Math due to inconsistent or interrupted schooling prior to arrival in the United States.

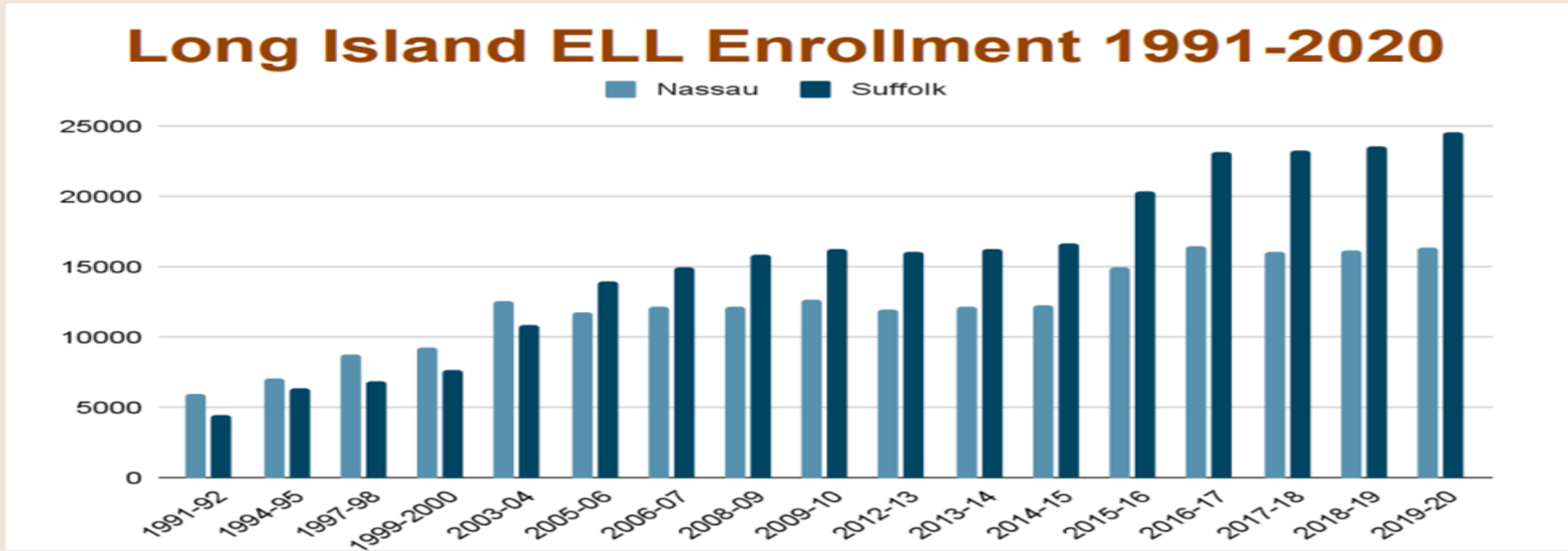
-NYSED

Home Language Literacy

New to Print Below 2 nd grade MLS	Early Decoder Below 2 nd grade MLS	Beginning Reader Below 2 nd grade MLS	Early Fluent Reader 3 rd Grade MLS
Student struggles to hold a pencil and copy text.	Student can copy text but cannot access text for meaning.	Student can decode fluently make meaning from text.	Student can comprehend and react to text

Issue 1: Increased SIFE Enrollment:

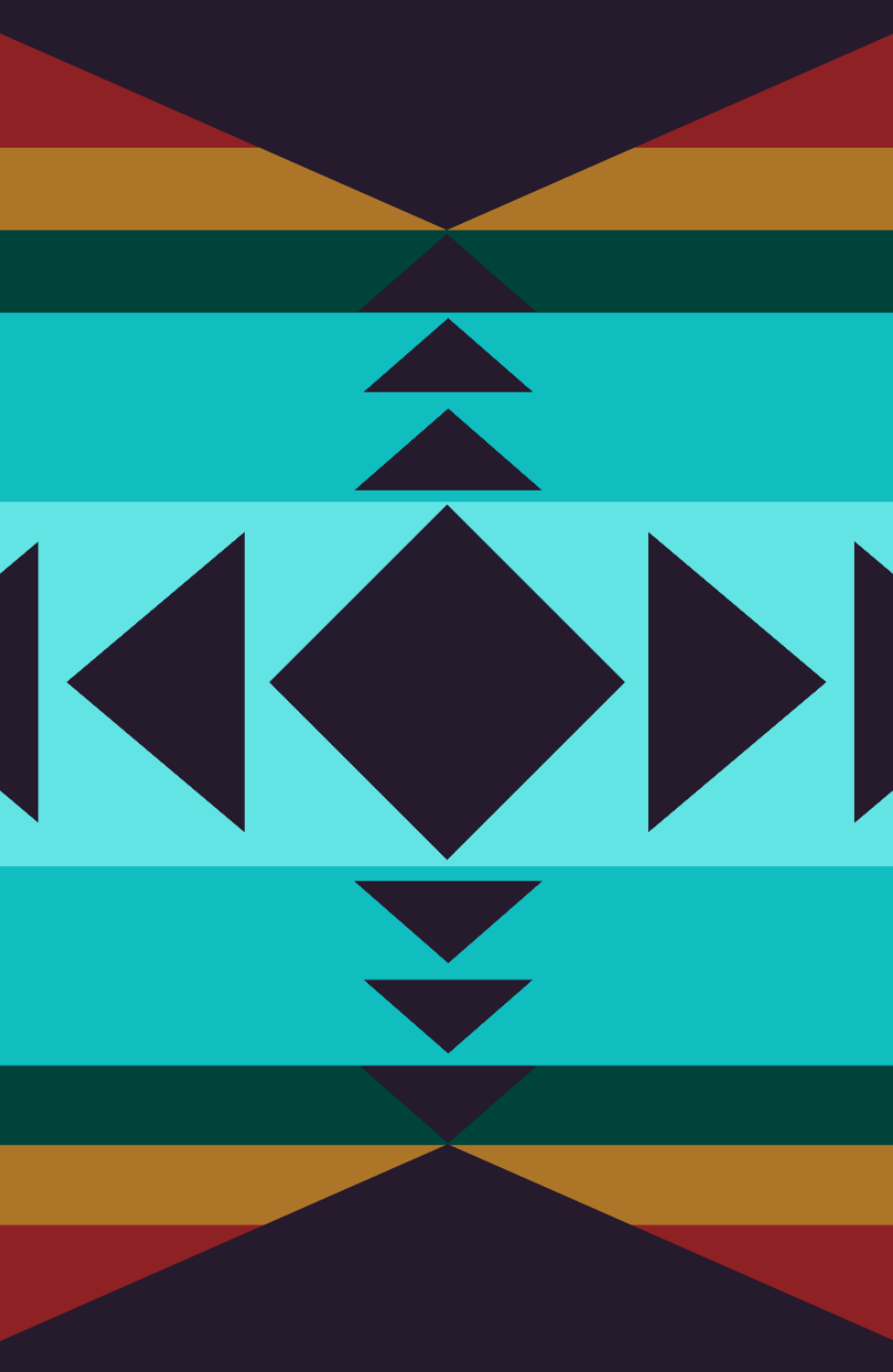
Over the past 30 years, Long Island has seen a four-fold increase in the number of English Language Learners (ELLs) we serve. Recently, Nassau school districts have seen a sharp increase in the number of students with interrupted formal education (SIFE).



History

Nassau County ELL Enrollment 1990-2022

1990	1995	2000	2005	2014	2021
5,995	7,060	9,281	11,749	12,165	16,936
Data Sources: 1991 –2016: CR Part 154 Data/Information Reports 2016-2019: Nassau BOCES					



Most Common Languages Spoken in Nassau County Schools

Spanish (86.8%)

Chinese

Urdu

Haitian Creole

Turkish

Korean

Panjabi

Bengali

Issue 2: Creating in-district programs or traditional brick and mortar school

The NYS Office of Bilingual Education has provided us with data that confirms there are currently 538 SIFE students attending 26 school districts in Nassau County. Most of these 26 districts have between one to five SIFE students, making it difficult to create in-district programs.

Due to space, logistical issues, and geographic issues, creating an in-person academy is not practical.

BALDWIN	2
EAST MEA	1
ELMONT	1
FARMING	7
FREEPORT	90
GLEN COV	8
GREAT NE	5
HEMPSTEAD	127
HERRICKS	1
HEWLETT	8
HICKSVILLE	22
LAWRENCE	35
LOCUST V	2
MANHASS	2
MINEOLA	1
OYSTER BA	40
PORT WAS	6
ROOSEVELT	28
ROSLYN	1
SEWANHA	3
SYOSSET	2
UNIONDA	21
VALLEY ST	1
VALLEY ST	3
WEST HEM	3
WESTBUR	115
Grand Tot	538

Solution

- The Nassau BOCES Virtual SIFE Academy includes working with a SIFE curriculum that NYS developed for this population (Bridges: <https://bridges-sifeproject.com>).
- Nassau BOCES would oversee the instruction and student enrollment.
- The program will be three periods per day and will be synchronous (synchronous learning is a general term used to describe instruction, and learning that occurs at the same time, but not in the same place).
- Students will log on from their home school buildings with technology and support provided by the district.
- Class sizes will be small, between 5 and 10 students.

Curriculum Partnership with Bridges to Academic Success

A Project of CUNY Graduate Center, NYC.

Funded by The NYS Education Department, Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL)



Bridges-Foundational Math

Purpose: Explicitly bring language into math instruction;

- 3rd grade and below home language numeracy.
- Academic Concepts, Math Practices, Language, and Literacy with SEL components.
- Basic Numeracy and Operations.

Bridges-Integrated ENL/ELA

Purpose: Build academic concepts, thinking, and literacy to prepare for ELA.

- Structure: Three thematic sequential units across the year.
- Design: Scaffolded instruction using gradual release.
- Texts: Informational and narrative texts with scaffolding.
- Grouping: Flexible – mostly heterogeneous, frequent same-language partners.

Portfolio Assessment

Authentic Assessment (Includes Portfolios)

More effective & equitable for SIFE

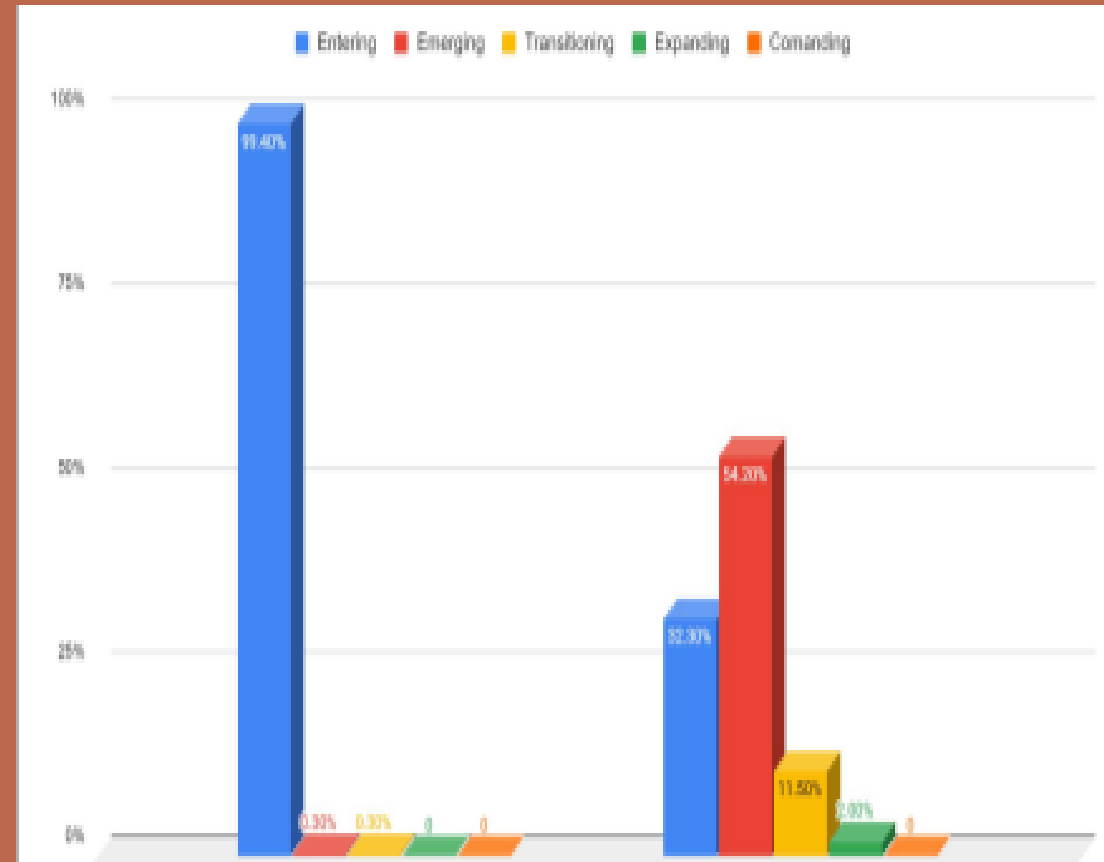
Ongoing; throughout the year

Assessment matches instruction; group work, and classroom activities

Engages student in assessment; emphasizes real-world issues relevant to student lives

Assess for learning & growth

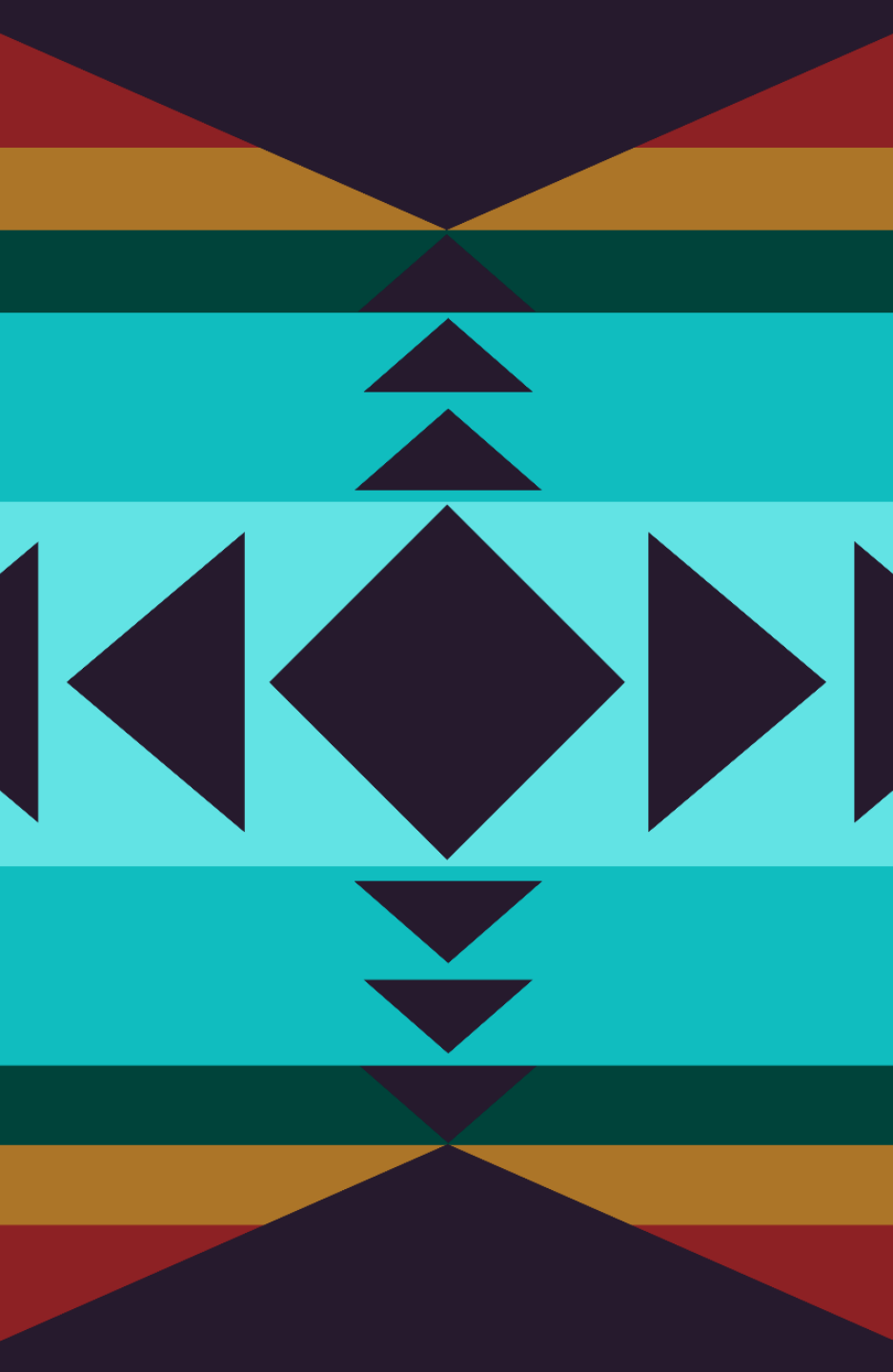
Bridges One Year Impact: State Test Data 2016-2022



Conclusion

In summary, our SIFE virtual classroom can provide SIFE learners with an accessible, engaging, culturally responsive, and cost-effective learning environment that helps to support their well-being, academic progress, and technology literacy.

Questions & answers



Resources

List the resources you used for your research:

- Source #1 bridges-sifeproject.com
- Source #2 [2022 | NASSAU COUNTY - English Language Learners Data | NYSED Data Site](#)
- Source #3 Long Island Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network