

ESL Instructional Framework Updates and Anticipation



ESL PLC 2022-2023

Abstract

The English as a Second Language (ESL) Instructional Framework is a revision to the 2019 version of the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS) Instructional Framework. The ESL Instructional Framework provides alignment to the NRS educational functional level (EFL) descriptors, Kentucky English Language Learner (ELL) EFL descriptors, Kentucky approved ESL assessments, and Kentucky created instructional resources. This current iteration provides a living document, reflecting additions and changes responsive to the needs of the Kentucky ESL field.

Introduction

Fiscal Year 23 arrived with the news that the widely used, Kentucky-approved ESL assessment, CASAS, would undergo a major revision upon its submission for NRS approval in October 2022.

Rather than alignment to life and work CASAS competencies, the revised test (STEPS) would instead be aligned to the national English Language Proficiency Standards, in turn aligned to the College and Career Ready Standards (CCRS).

Further, the 2019 version of the ELPS Instructional Framework was woefully outdated, including resources no longer available in BurlingtonEnglish.

Several other factors influenced development of this PLC product:

- Anticipated increases in the number of ESL students (chart 1) will require more ESL instructors, many of whom will be new to the field
- Instructor-requested “practical,” standards-aligned, test-preparation materials, as reflected in Blackboard discussion posts
- The Kentucky pilot of TABE CLAS-E required further alignment with existing resources
- Crosswalk NRS EFL expectations with testing and standards alignment to improve student gains (Table 1)

Table 1. Level Gains by ESL Functioning Level FY23

EFL Level	Students	Completed Level	% Gains
Level 7	151	59	39%
Level 8	299	131	44%
Level 9	671	246	37%
Level 10	763	332	44%
Level 11	614	237	39%
Level 12	438	131	30%
Total ELL	2936	1136	39%

Product Description

The current framework is organized by NRS level only in a Google workbook, rather than by NRS level and by standard in a PDF, as the previous iteration was. Pages of the workbook consist of

- Table of Contents
 - Sortable lesson bank of 38 submitted Kentucky lessons
 - Hyperlinks to each workbook page/sheet
- Crosswalk of EFL descriptors and the corresponding ELP expectations
- EFL-specific pages/sheets
 - Anchor standard and level-specific ELPS granules
 - Hyperlinked Kentucky-created lessons and other resources
 - CCR anchor standard correlations
 - CASAS and CLAS-E test correlations

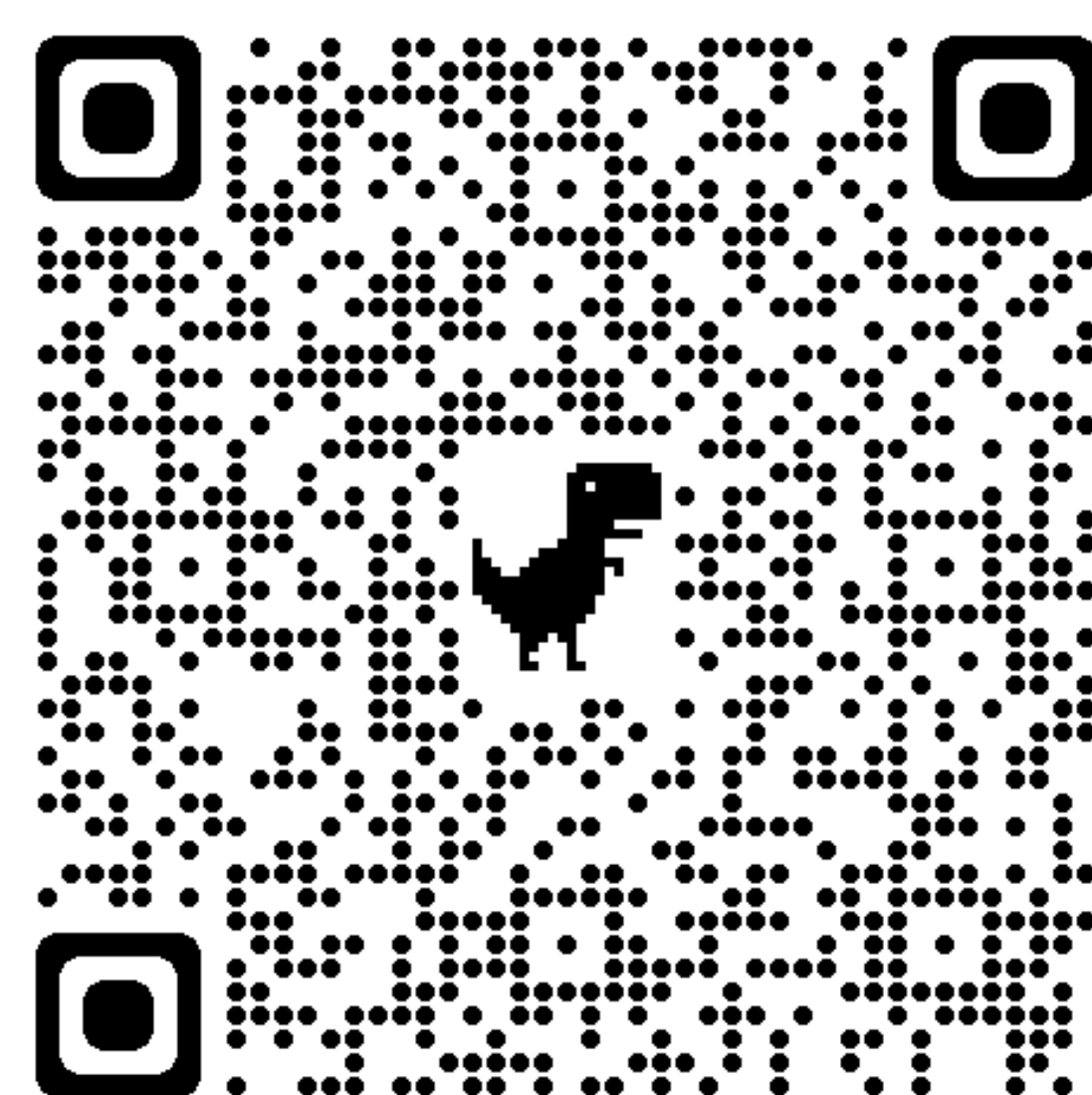
Future Framework Evaluation Efforts

We intend to develop an evaluation model for the Instructional Frameworks, including this newly revised ESL Framework. This evaluation would potentially include:

- Feedback from teachers who use the framework and lesson plans capturing
- Effectiveness and accuracy in targeting the new standards
- How many instructors used the framework
- Which lessons are most frequently accessed
- Ease of navigation and layout
- Clarity of descriptors, standards, and expectations for level gains.
- Correlation of lessons used from the framework to gains

Results

ESL Instructional Framework (rev. FY23)



ESL/IELCE Lesson Plan Template (Streamlined)

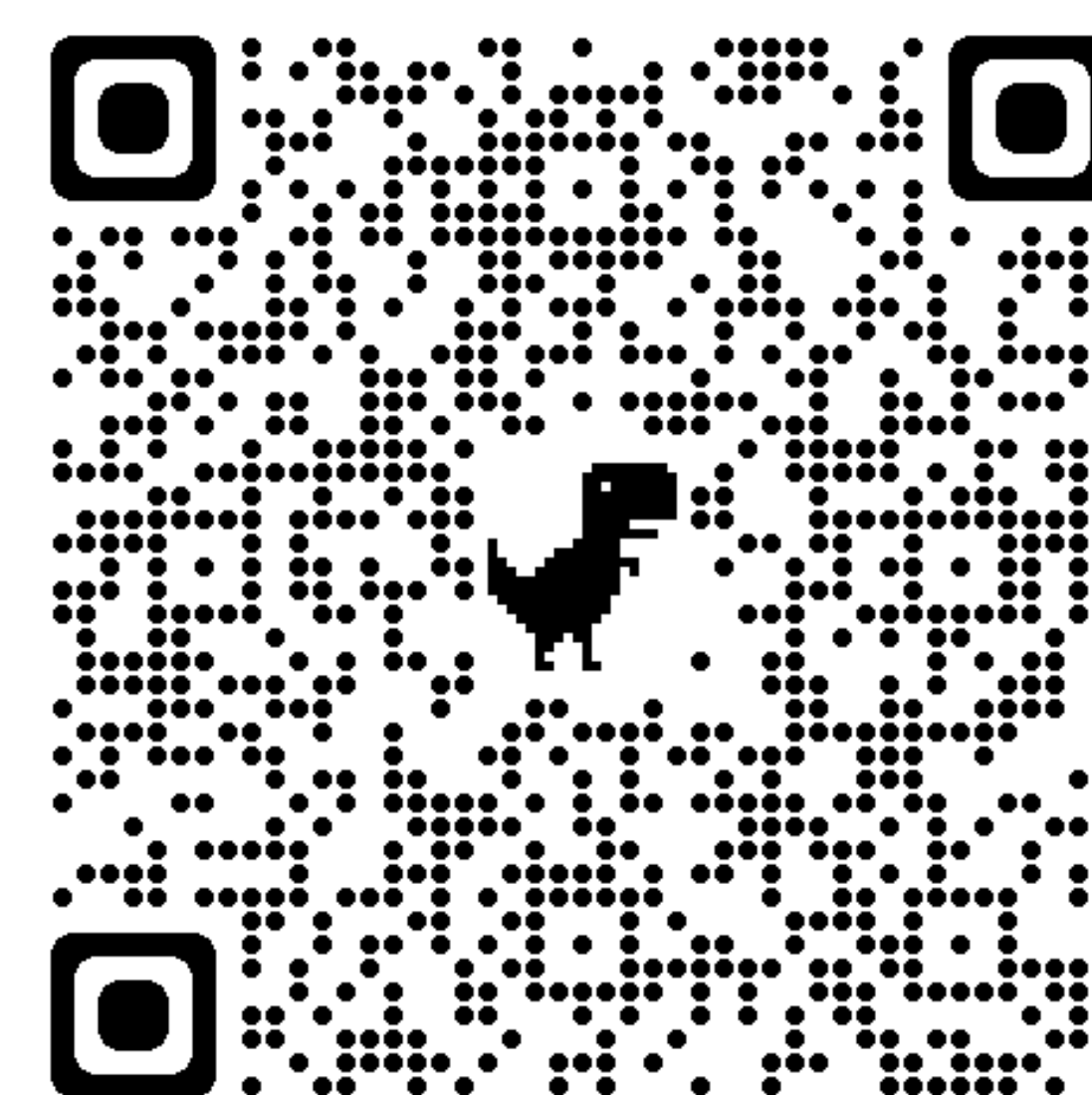
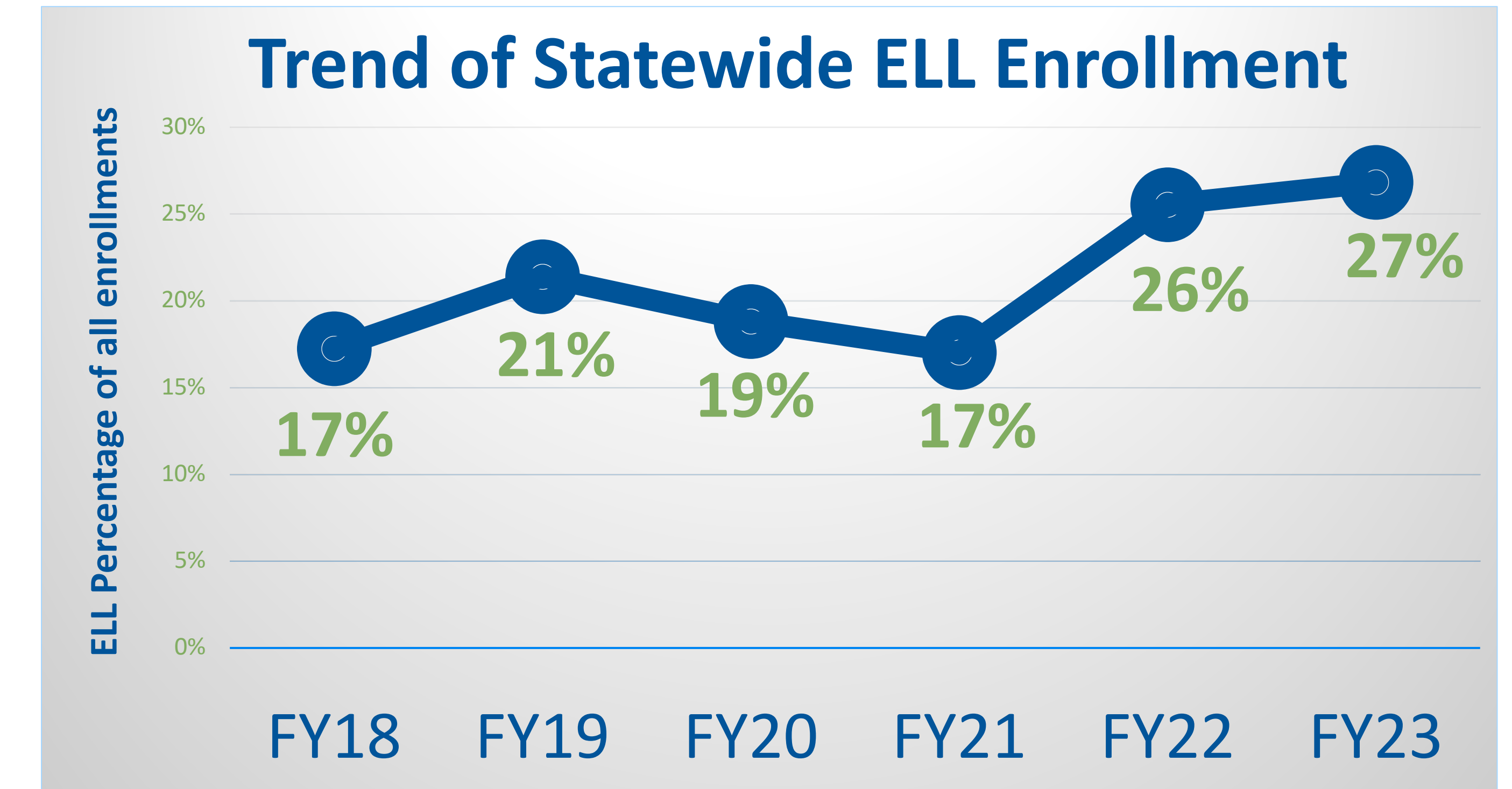


Chart 1.



Discussion

The PLC was excited to create a showcase and lesson bank for Kentucky-created ESL lessons.

As a way to standardize Kentucky submissions, the PLC adopted the ESL/IELCE Streamlined Lesson Plan Template, reporting that it is easy and simple to use.

Noted Concerns and Unexpected Problems:

1. Incomplete understanding of the ELPS before the project started
2. Identifying citizenship elements of planning lessons was difficult

Conclusions

The new instructional framework can provide

1. Clarity of student performance across levels and tests
2. Convenience of seeing all the standards, scores, and EFL descriptions in one document
3. Ideally, time savings and resources for instruction
4. Potential instructor “overload” because of the amount of information
5. Resources aligned to CLAS-E and STEPS/CASAS that more accurately reflect NRS expectations
6. Completion anticipated August 2024 with follow-up professional learning

References & Acknowledgements

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References:
Table 1: KAERS, Reporting > Performance > Performance Report 2018-2022, pulled May 16, 2023.
Chart 1: KAERS, Reporting > Admin > STATE ServiceType Table4, Fiscal Years 2018-2023, pulled May 15, 2023.
Image by Alexa from Pixabay.