Multilingual Learners or MLLs (also referred to as English Language Learners or ELLs) make up a significant percentage of students (approximately 149,000 in 2019) in New York City public schools.¹ In spite of their enormous potential, MLLs have some of the worst outcomes of all student subgroups. The data show that with more access and supports we can improve outcomes and fulfill the potential of every student.

Despite improvements overall, MLLs still have significantly worse graduation rates and dropout rates compared to their Non-MLL peers.²

**Former MLLs outperform those who were never MLLs on both Math & English (ELA) state exams.³**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MLLs Grad Rate</th>
<th>Non-MLLs Grad Rate</th>
<th>MLLs Dropout Rate</th>
<th>Non-MLLs Dropout Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current MLL students who tested proficient</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>61.1%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never MLL students who tested proficient</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former MLL students who tested proficient*</td>
<td>51.5%</td>
<td>59.3%</td>
<td>40.9%</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Former MLLs are students who tested out of MLL-status
Older Newcomer MLLs Are Vulnerable

Newcomer MLLs are defined as students who have received 0-3 years of MLL services.

In 2017, newcomers made up 60% of the entire MLL population, with 86% in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn combined.⁴

Older MLLs have less time to learn English and meet graduation requirements before they age out.

MLL youth not currently in school could be better served by expanded capacity and strategic deployment of services

Estimates indicate there are as many as 4,200 recently-arrived immigrants of high school age (14-21) not enrolled in a NYC school.⁶ 90% of them are 16-21 years old.

Many older MLLs would be well-served by MLL transfer schools that have robust supports and programming for older, newly arrived immigrant students.

However, there are currently only 5 of those schools, and 4 are located in Manhattan.⁵

Sources:
2. NYC DOE, Graduation Results, Citywide. 4 Year August Graduation Rate for the 2015 Cohort - ELL Tab.
3. NYC DOE, ELA and Math Test Results, 2018-19.
4. NYC DOE, Division of Multilingual Learners: English Language Learner Demographics Report for the 2016-17 School Year.
5. Locations for the five schools matched to geographic coordinates using the DBN field from the LCGMS_SchoolData file.