Support for English Language Learners is Nearly Lowest in U.S.

About **one in five Texas students** is an English language learner. Texas, like 34 other states, provides additional formula funding to support students with limited English proficiency through a weighted funding system—meaning that some student groups are given additional funding over the base level.\(^1\) Texas has the second-largest number of English Language Learner (ELL) students, yet provides some of the lowest additional funding support—just **10 percent** over base level funding.

Bilingual education programs are most frequently offered and most effective in the early education years. Of Texas ELL students in 2017-2018, **50 percent** were in the third grade or below.\(^2\) Shortchanging young ELL students now means cheating the future of Texas of an educated and bilingual workforce.

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\(^1\) Education Commission of the States. (2014). 50-State Comparison: English Language Learners, Types of Funding.

\(^2\) PEIMS Standard Reports, 2017-2018 “ELL Students by Category and Grade,” Texas Education Agency.