



The report covered ten Latin American countries that represent 87% of the region's GDP (World Bank, 2015): Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, and Uruguay.

English Language Learning in Latin America

Lack of ELL proficiency is holding back economic development: A white paper analyzes current policies and offers recommendations to improve English proficiency across the region.

Highlights of the analysis of current policies and overall proficiency

English Language Learning In Latin America

Latin America as a region performs below the world average in the EF English First English Proficiency Index (EF EPI 2016) in all age groups, particularly in the 18-20 years age group, where the region falls behind the world average by 3.8 points.



English Language Learning Policy Framework

While most countries have a standard of measurement and student proficiency goals, few implement standardized proficiency assessments to determine whether these goals have been met.

English Teachers In Latin America

A majority of English teachers do not demonstrate the necessary proficiency levels. With increasing demand in the region for ELL, there is a greater strain on the limited availability of quality English teachers. Three factors appear to be critical: poor pre-service training, insufficient professional development, and weak implementation of policy frameworks.

Lessons From English Language Learning Programs

There are three key factors that ELL programs must address to be successful: ensuring continuity, developing a strong monitoring and evaluation framework that informs adaptation, and dealing with the lack of sufficient quality teachers.

Recommendations to address current challenges:



Address policy bottlenecks

Governments need to have a well-developed and consistent framework to set strategic policy directions, including standards and expectations for ELL. These are essential to guide efforts to improve English teaching and English proficiency.



Look beyond the K-12 educational system for learning opportunities

Adults in and out of the workforce are seeking learning opportunities outside the schooling system and, potentially, through the higher education system.



Improve teacher training

Countries must strengthen regulations of training institutions to improve quality, while also looking for innovative solutions to address the teacher shortage.



Move towards a regional learning community

Share challenges, experiences, and best practices. This community could make important contributions to ongoing and future efforts to improve English proficiency throughout the region.