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EL Facts

Title

Language Minority Students Account for Most of California's Enrollment Growth in the Last Decade

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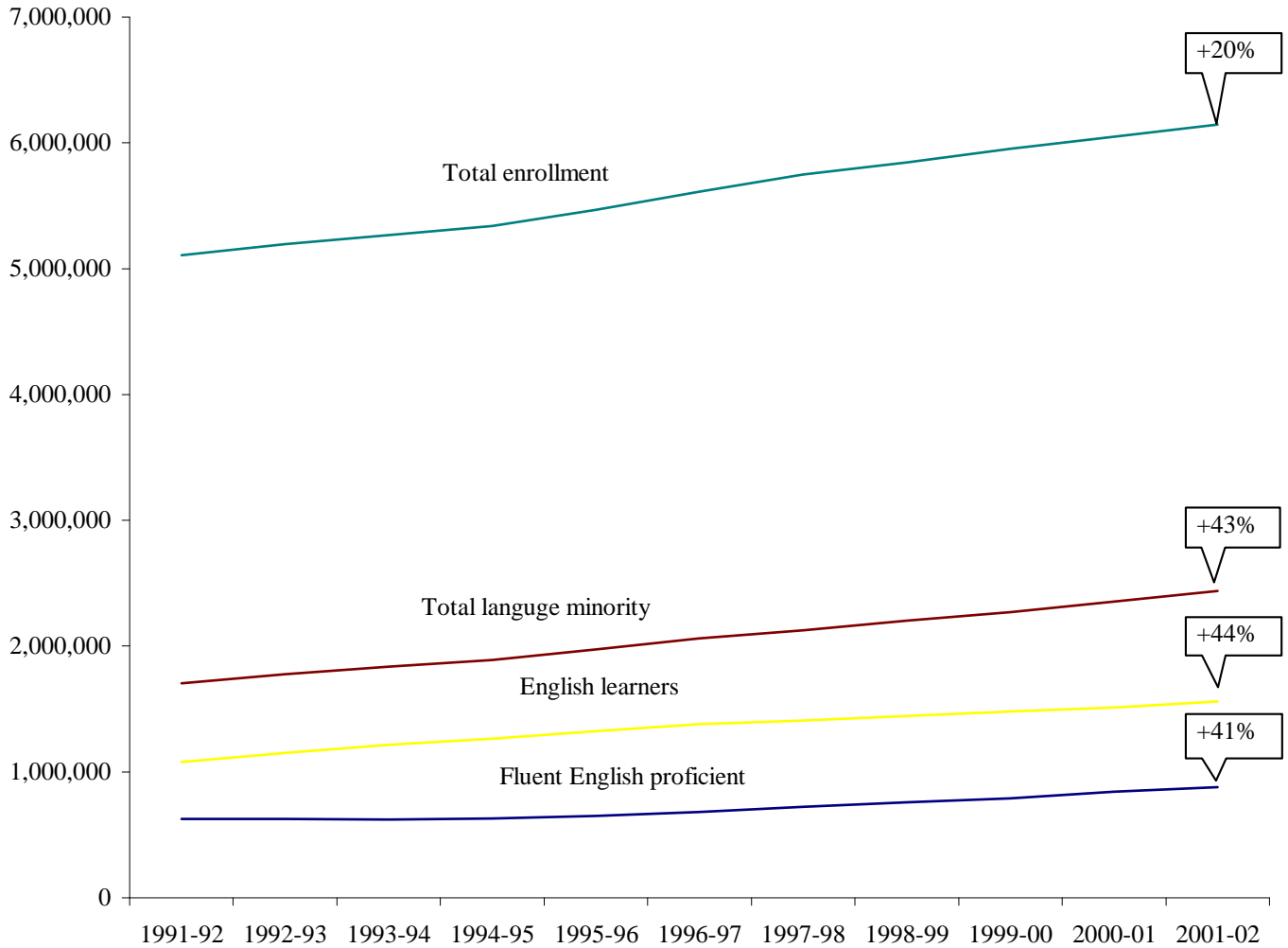
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**California Enrollment by Language Background,
 1991-92 to 2001-02**



SOURCE: California Department of Education, Language Census, 1991-91 to 2001-02.

Enrollment of language minority students continues to outpace overall enrollment growth. In the ten-year period from 1991-92 to 2001-02, California's public schools added more than one million students, an increase of 20 percent. In the same period, the number of English learners (ELs) increased by 44 percent and the number of Fluent English Proficient (FEP) students increased by 41 percent. Altogether, language minority students represented more than 70 percent of the increase in student enrollment over this period!

In 2001-02, language minority students represented almost 40 percent of total enrollment in California schools. Among kindergarteners, they represented more than 44 percent. Increasingly, the future of California rests with the state's will and capacity to effectively educate its growing language minority population.