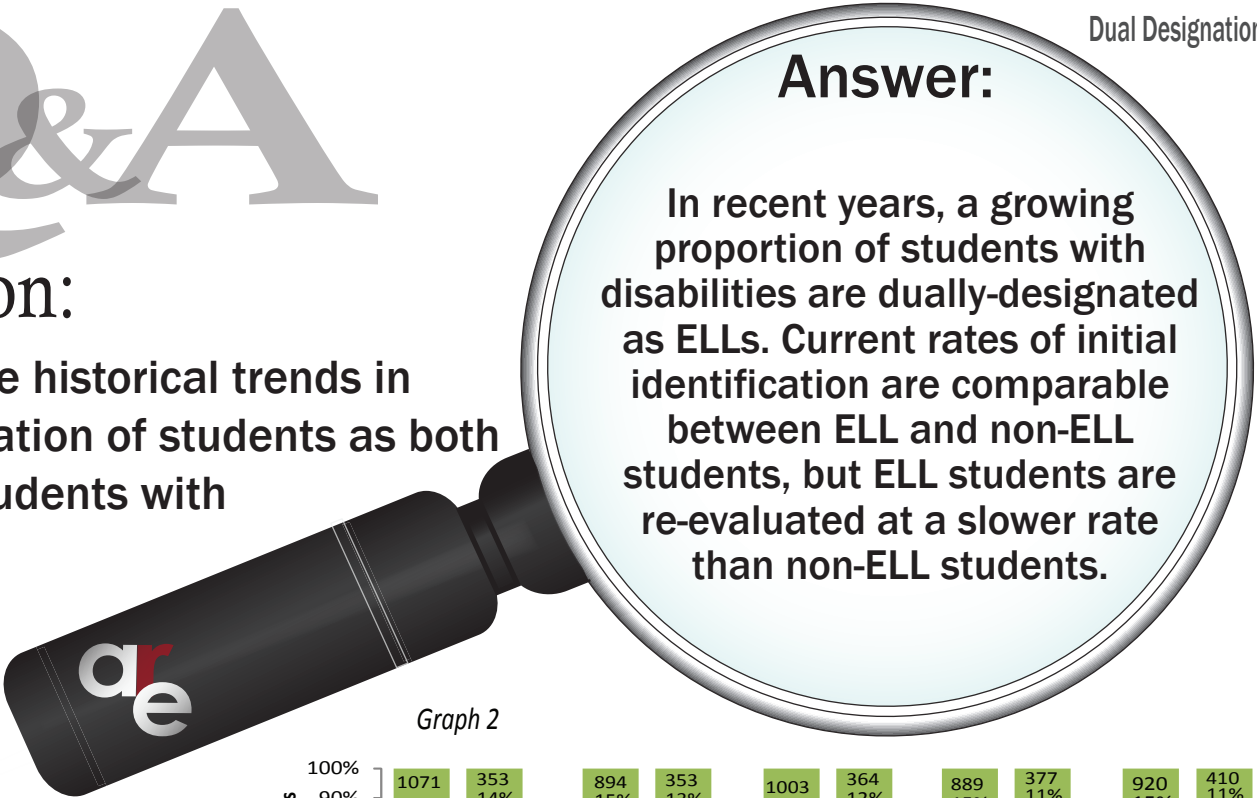




Question:

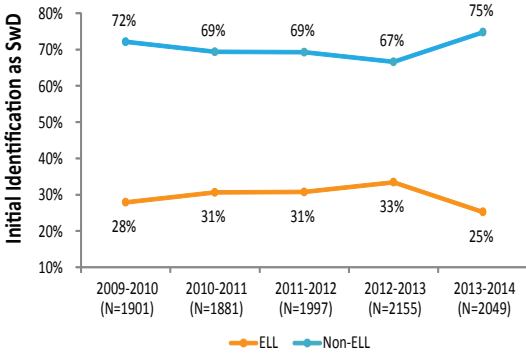
What are the historical trends in dual-designation of students as both ELLs and students with disabilities?



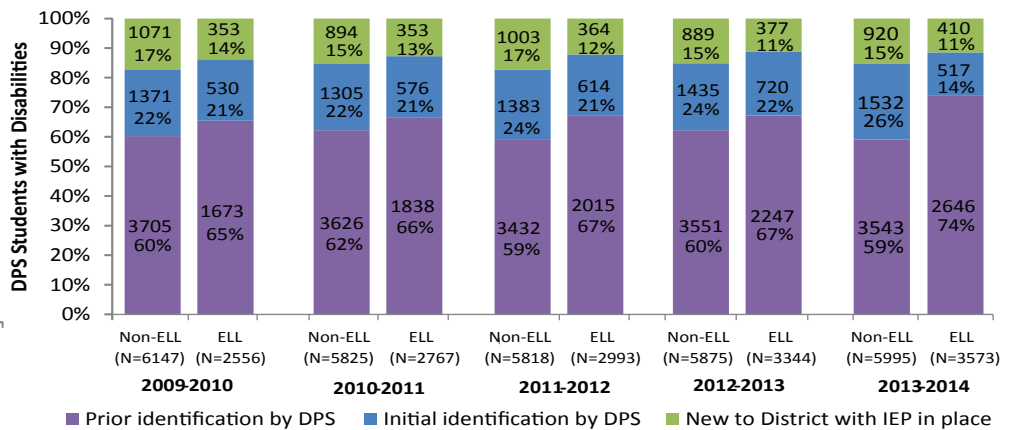
Answer:

In recent years, a growing proportion of students with disabilities are dually-designated as ELLs. Current rates of initial identification are comparable between ELL and non-ELL students, but ELL students are re-evaluated at a slower rate than non-ELL students.

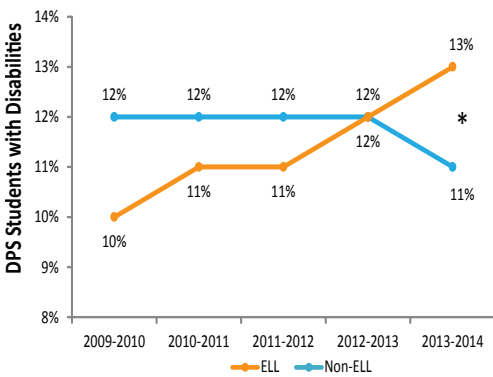
Graph 1



Graph 2



Graph 3



Compared to previous years, DPS initially identified proportionately fewer ELL students as having a disability in 2013-2014 (Graph 1).

However, the compounding effects of previous identification trends towards dual-designation have resulted in an increasing number year over year of ELL students with IEPs in place from previous years compared to non-ELLs. Additionally, DPS has seen an increasing number year over year of new students coming into the district with IEPs in place from their previous district for both ELL and non-ELL students (Graph 2).

The proportion of ELL students identified as having a disability has increased district-wide since the 2009-2010 school year. The 2013-2014 school year was the first year where a higher proportion of ELL students had IEP plans in place compared to non-ELL students (Graph 3)

Recommendations:

1. DPS appears to be attracting a higher need population year over year given the increasing transfer-in rate of dual designation students. Schools should take care to align the ELL services and IEP plans of these students to streamline delivery of services for new transfers.
2. While DPS appears not to be overclassifying ELL students as students with disabilities currently, there is a chance that transfer students' previous district may have done so. Dual identified transfer students may need to have their disability status reevaluated on entry to DPS.

Note: All data is drawn from October Count. Exited ELL student are not included in these analysis. An additional research brief looking at dual identification trends disaggregated by disability type is forthcoming.