

What is the purpose of the ELPAC?

State law (California Education Code sections 313 and 60810) and federal laws (Titles I and III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act [ESEA]) require that local educational agencies (LEAs) administer a state test of English language proficiency to (1) newly enrolled students whose primary language is not English, as an initial assessment, and (2) students who are English learners (ELs), as an annual summative assessment (SA). For California's public school students, this test is the ELPAC.

The ELPAC is used to assess and monitor EL students' progress toward English language proficiency. EL students continue to take the ELPAC SA annually until they meet their LEA's reclassification criteria.

Can parents/guardians opt their child out of the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)?

No. Parents/Guardians cannot opt their child out of the ELPAC. State and federal law (California Education Code sections 313 and 60810 and federal law Titles I and III of the Every Student Succeeds Act) require that all students whose primary language is other than English be assessed for English language proficiency. The legal basis for requiring English language proficiency testing is that all students have the right to an equal and appropriate education, and any English language limitations (left unidentified and/or unaddressed) could preclude a student from accessing that right.

Which students are required to take the ELPAC?

Students with a primary language other than English, as determined by a home language survey, who have not taken the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) or ELPAC before and who have not been previously classified as an EL, must take the Initial ELPAC Assessment.

Students designated as ELs via the Initial ELPAC are required to take the Summative ELPAC annually until they are reclassified as fluent English proficient.

Do we test students in transitional kindergarten?

No. During the summer of 2024, California law changed the requirement for TK students to take the ELPAC. ELPAC testing will begin in Kindergarten now, for all students enrolled in the LEA in kindergarten program, whose primary language is other than English, as determined by a home language survey, must be administered the ELPAC within 30 calendar days of enrollment or 60 calendar days prior to instruction, but not before July 1.

If a student enters CA partway through the school year, takes the Initial ELPAC and is classified as an EL during the Summative ELPAC administration window, will the student be required to take the Summative ELPAC as well?

Yes, if a student takes the Initial ELPAC and is classified as an EL prior to May 31, the student will be required to take the Summative ELPAC as well during that testing window.

Are there guidelines for individualized education program (IEP) teams to determine the necessary accommodations for students with disabilities?

Test Resources

Students may need testing resources in order to complete one or more domains of the ELPAC, such as universal tools, designated supports, accommodation(s), or an alternate assessment. IEP teams and Test Examiners who are accessing resources for test administration should refer to the CA Assessment Accessibility Resources Matrix , which is found on the California Department of Education (CDE) Assessment Information web page. There is a Braille version of the ELPAC.

Accommodations

Accommodations or alternate assessments should be noted in a student's IEP or Section 504 plan.

Is there an alternate assessment that is recommended by the state?

New for 2021-22: The Alternate ELPAC operational field test replaced all locally determined alternate assessments for summative purposes and, for the first time, provided a consistent, standardized measurement of ELP across the state for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. LEAs continued to administer a locally determined alternate assessment for initial classification through the 2021-22 school year. The Initial Alternate ELPAC will become operational starting July 1, 2022.