2026–27 English Learner Reclassification Webinar Resource Guide

California Department of Education, October 2, 2026

California Reclassification Requirements and Criteria

California English Learner Roadmap Principles

1. **Principle One:** Assets-Oriented and Needs-Responsive Schools
2. **Principle Two:** Intellectual Quality of Instruction and Meaningful Access
3. **Principle Three:** System Conditions that Support Effectiveness
4. **Principle Four:** Alignment and Articulation Within and Across Systems

English Learner Students

- EL students:
  - enroll in a California school at any grade level (K-12);
  - have a language other than English identified on the Home Language Survey; and
  - upon initial assessment, demonstrate a level of English language proficiency (ELP) that indicates EL programs and services are necessary.
- Students identified as English learners receive programs and services until reclassified pursuant to EC Section 313.

Reclassification Overview

Reclassification is the process whereby a student is reclassified from EL status to RFEP status.

- Reclassification happens when the student has demonstrated the English skills needed to be considered fluent in English.
- To reclassify a student, the child's English language acquisition status changes from EL to RFEP.

California Reclassification Criteria Prior to AB 2555

1. Assessment of ELP with Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternate ELPAC
2. Teacher Evaluation
3. Parent Opinion and Consultation
4. Basic Skills Relative to English Proficient Students

Immediate Impact of AB 2555

Effective September 27, 2026, EL students who received an Overall Performance Level (PL) 4 on the Summative ELPAC or an Overall PL 3 on the Summative Alternate ELPAC during the 2025-26 administration are immediately eligible to be reclassified.

No other criteria are required for reclassification.

California Reclassification Criterion With AB 2555

1. Assessment of ELP with Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternate ELPAC

2025–26 Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC Results

AB 2555 streamlines reclassification from 4 required criteria to a single criterion: Assessment of English Language Proficiency

Table 1. Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC results

Assessment	Assessment Threshold for Reclassification	Number of Students Meeting Threshold from 2025–26 results
Summative ELPAC	Overall Performance Level 4	133,013
Summative Alternate ELPAC	Overall Performance Level 3	2,605

Students who meet the applicable assessment threshold must be reclassified as RFEP.

Guidance for Reclassification with 2025–26 Administration Results

Identifying Eligible Students to Reclassify

In the Test Operations Management System (TOMS), download the *ELPAC Students Meeting Reclassification Criteria 1 Report* for 2025−26.

This report will show all enrolled students who received an Overall Performance Level 4 on the Summative ELPAC or an Overall Performance Level 3 on the Summative Alternate ELPAC.

CAASPP & ELPAC TOMS User Guide

Submitting RFEP to CALPADS

- After identifying the students in the downloaded TOMS report, update the local student information system (SIS) with their new English Language Acquisition Status (ELAS) of Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP).
  - Then, update students' ELAS to RFEP in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS).
  - Use an ELAS Start Date that is between September 27, 2026, and January 31, 2027.

It is important that the ELAS Start Date falls within the student's enrollment period and is not equal to the Enrollment Start Date.

While the law specifies that students “shall be reclassified as English proficient on or before January 31, 2027,” the CDE **strongly encourages** LEAs to update statuses in the SIS and upload the statuses to CALPADS in the October 2026 timeframe.

Submitting in October 2026 will allow the LEA to:

- Reflect students’ RFEP statuses in CALPADS
- Appropriately reflect these students as RFEP on Census Day in their certified 2026−27 CALPADS Fall 1 submissions.
- Ensure that these students are not re-tested unnecessarily during the 2026−27 Summative ELPAC test administration window, which opens on February 1, 2027.

Future Changes to Reclassification Policy Pursuant to AB 2555

2027–28

- Parent communication requirements
- RFEP monitoring
- Reclassification automation beginning with the 2027–28 summative ELPAC results (Spring 2028)

2028–29

- Alternative pathways for dually identified students will begin in 2028–29

Future Guidance

- Guidance for eligible students meeting criterion 1 based on the 2025–26 summative results who are NOT currently enrolled in 2026–27 is coming soon.
  - Impacted LEAs will hear directly from CDE on next steps.
- Guidance for reclassification using the 2026–27 summative ELPAC administration results will follow later this year.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **When can LEAs start relying solely on the Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternate ELPAC score (Criterion 1) as the basis for reclassifying EL students?**
  - AB 2555 included an urgency clause and became effective immediately upon being signed by the Governor. LEAs must start immediately reclassifying students using only Criterion 1.
- **Can a student be reclassified with a score less than a Summative ELPAC Overall PL 4 or a Summative Alternate ELPAC Overall PL 3?**
  - No.
- **Is a reclassification form still needed to document reclassification of students based on their assessment score alone, pursuant to AB 2555?**

  - To preserve the record of the reclassification, LEAs may continue to use their existing reclassification forms for the student's cumulative record. LEAs would only complete the Criterion 1 portion (English Language Proficiency), and disregard Criteria 2-4.

- **May an LEA require anything beyond the Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternate ELPAC score when determining eligibility for reclassification? May it keep its reclassification committee, or require teacher sign-off?**
  - No, pursuant to AB 2555, EL students are to be reclassified based solely on meeting the SBE-approved threshold for the Summative ELPAC Overall PL 4 or the Summative Alternate ELPAC Overall PL 3 for an EL student to be reclassified.
- **How will the changes in the reclassification process impact federal program monitoring (FPM)?**
  - During FPM reviews conducted before July 1, 2027: FPM reviewers will monitor to ensure LEAs are manually reclassifying eligible students as soon as possible.
  - During FPM reviews conducted after July 1, 2027: FPM reviewers will continue to monitor LEAs to ensure proper reclassification of students.
- **When will EL students be automatically reclassified using their Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternative ELPAC scores?**
  - AB 2555 provides that students will automatically be reclassified beginning with the 2027–28 administration of the Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC.
- **When will the alternate coursework be available to reclassify dually identified students?**
  - The alternate coursework, performance tasks, rubrics, and the alternate path to reclassification will become available on July 1, 2028, for EL students with IEPs who meet all the requirements of *EC* 313.5.

Q&A

[insert notes here]

Resources

CDE AB 2555 Reclassification FAQs

CDE Reclassification web page

CDE CALPADS Communications web page

CDE **Updated** Initial and Annual Parent Notification Letters

Contact Information

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Thank You!