Reminder: Initial ELPAC Deadline - September 18

A critical reminder that all Initial ELPAC assessments for students enrolled on the first day of school must be completed, and parent notifications must be sent, by **Wednesday, September 18, 2025**. Please review your site's progress to ensure all students are assessed and families are notified by this state-mandated deadline.

This Week's Testing Call Drivers & Support

We've been receiving some common questions this week. Here is some clarifying guidance for your teams.

1. Initial ELPAC: General vs. Alternate Assessments

We have received a number of inquiries regarding the process for assigning an alternate assessment for the Initial ELPAC. Due to the tight turnaround for this initial assessment, our guidance is as follows:

- **Default Assessment:** Please administer the **general Initial ELPAC** unless a student arrives with a current, active IEP that *already specifies* an alternate assessment.
- **Rationale:** The September 18 deadline does not realistically allow for the required IEP meeting and state processing time needed to assign a *new* alternate assessment.
- **Planning for the Future:** If an IEP team believes an alternate assessment may be appropriate, please schedule an IEP meeting now to discuss this for the **Spring Summative ELPAC**. This ensures that the student's needs are met while allowing ample time for a thoughtful, team-based decision.

2. ELPAC Speaking Test: Scoring Guidance

Some sites have reported that the recording feature for the speaking portion of the test is not working for all students. The guidance from ETS is clear:

- **Score in the Moment:** Test examiners should score student responses live, during the test administration. This is the primary and intended method for scoring.
- **Recording is a Backup:** The recording functionality is a backup system and is not required for a valid test administration.
- **Do Not Delay Testing:** Please ensure that testing is not paused or delayed due to recording issues. The priority is to identify our English Learners as quickly as possible to provide them with the necessary services.

3. Out-of-Date Browser Errors

If a testing device displays an error message about an out-of-date browser, please follow these steps to resolve the issue without delaying testing:

- **Use a Different Device:** Immediately switch the student to a different, functioning testing device to continue their assessment.

- **Update the Original Device:** Leave the device with the error plugged in and powered on overnight. This will allow it to receive the necessary updates.
- **Submit an IT Ticket:** If the browser error message persists the following day, please submit an IT ticket for further assistance.

As always, thank you for your partnership in ensuring a smooth and compliant testing season. Please reach out with any questions.