

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the purpose of the ELPAC?

A: School Districts in California are required by law to administer a state test for English language proficiency (ELPAC) to eligible students in grades TK through grade 12 whose primary language is a language other than English.

Q: Can parents/guardians opt their child out of the ELPAC?

A: No. Parents/guardians cannot opt their child out of the ELPAC. State and federal laws require that all students whose primary language is other than English be assessed for English language proficiency.

Q: Which students are required to take the ELPAC?

A: a) Students with a primary language other than English, as determined by a home language survey, and who have not taken the ELPAC before and who have not been previously classified as an English Learner (EL), must take the ELPAC Initial Assessment (IA).

b) Students designated as ELs via the ELPAC (IA), are required to take the ELPAC Summative Assessment (SA) annually until they are reclassified as fluent English proficient.



Where Can I Find Out More Information?

More information about the ELPAC can be found on the California Department of Education

ELPAC Web page at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep>

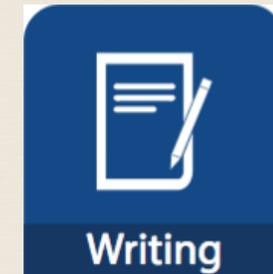
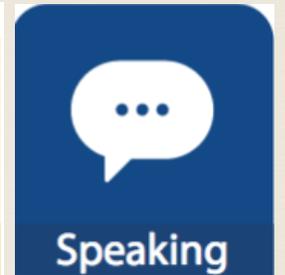
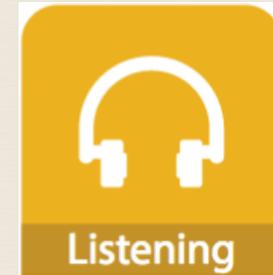
or at the Educational Testing Services ELPAC

Webpage at: <http://www.elpac.org/>

Parents are also encouraged to contact the Teacher Specialist at their child's school for specific testing information and dates.



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The **English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC)** is the test that is used to measure how well students in *transitional kindergarten* through grade *twelve* understand and can use Academic and Conversational English when it is not their primary language.



What is the ELPAC?

The English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (**ELPAC**) is the mandated state test for determining English language proficiency (ELP). It must be given to students whose primary language is one other than English. California and federal law require that local education agencies administer a state test of ELP to eligible students in transitional kindergarten through grade twelve.

Beginning with the 2019-20 administration, the Summative English Language Proficiency Assessment of California, **ELPAC** will be delivered via a computer-based test delivery platform. Available **ELPAC** practice and training tests allow students, parents/guardians and families to become familiar with the computer-based test delivery platform as well as the types of test questions that may appear on the actual test at each grade level or grade span.

The **ELPAC** has been designed so that students, including those with special needs, can participate in the test and demonstrate what they know and can do. ELPAC includes accessibility resources that address visual, auditory, and physical access barriers – allowing virtually all students to demonstrate what they know and can do.

What does the ELPAC test?

The ELPAC tests four different areas to assess students' English language proficiency levels. The four areas tested are:

Listening *Speaking*
Reading *Writing*

The **ELPAC** is aligned with California's 2012 English Language Development Standards and is comprised of two separate assessments:

Initial ELPAC

What: An initial assessment used to identify students learn English or as proficient in English.

Who: Students who have a primary language other than English, have not taken the ELPAC before and have not been classified before as an English learner.

When: Students are given the Initial Assessment within 30 days of when they enroll at school.

Summative ELPAC

What: An annual summative assessment to measure an English learner's progress in learning English and to identify the student's English language proficiency level.

Who: Students who are identified as an English learner on the initial assessment.

When: Students who are English learners are given the Summative Assessment every spring between February and May until they are reclassified as English Proficient.

Identifying students who need help learning in English is important so these students can get the extra help they need to do well in school and access the full curriculum. Every year students who are English learners will take the ELPAC summative to measure their progress in learning.

How Can Parents Help Their Child Prepare for the ELPAC?

Parents are an important part of their child's education. Some things parents can do to help their child are:

√ Read to your child, or have your child read to you in English, daily.

√ Use pictures and ask your child to tell you in English what they see in the picture or what is happening in the picture.

√ Talk to your child's teacher about which areas of learning English (listening, speaking, reading, writing) they may need extra help.

√ Discuss the test with your child, make sure he or she feels comfortable and understands the importance of taking the ELPAC.

√ Have your child take the ELPAC Practice Test to become familiar with the types of test questions on the ELPAC. When students know more about what to expect on the test, they will be better prepared to show what they know and are able to do in English.

ELPAC Practice Tests can be found at:

<https://www.elpac.org/resources/practicetests/>

