2025-2026
ELPAC 101 For Teachers

Virtual Learning Series

October 9th

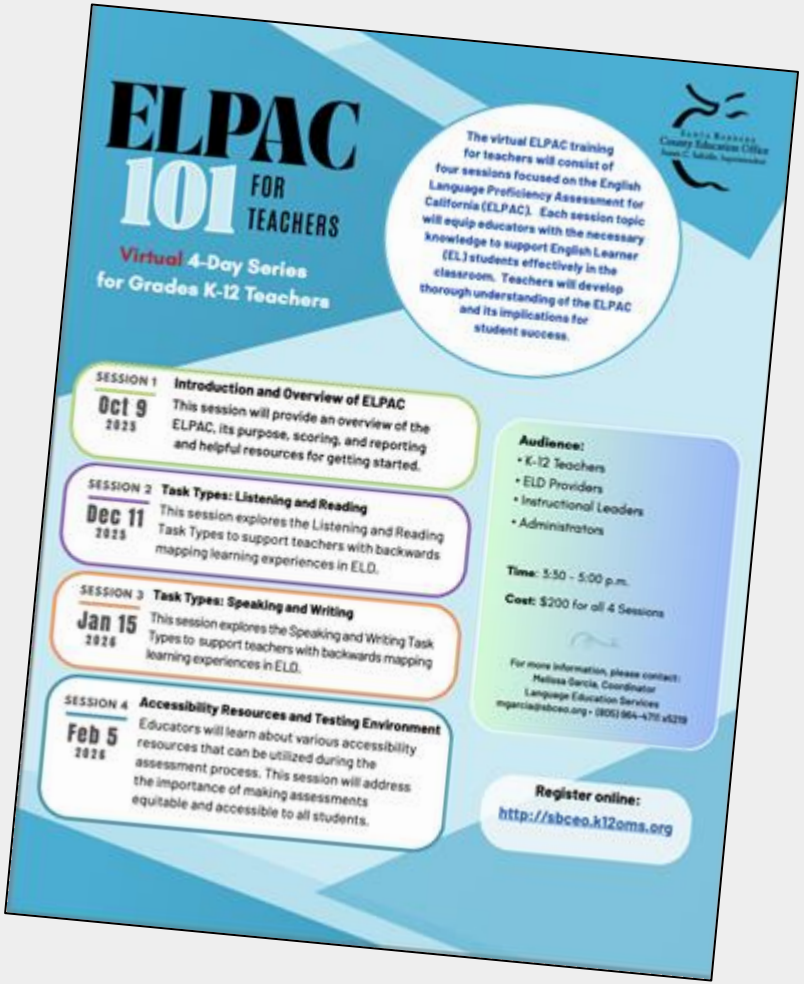
December 11th

January 15th

Februrary 5th

Melissa Garcia

Santa Barbara County Education Office
Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent



Reading Difficulties Risk Screener (RDRS): Multilingual Students

ED Code 53008 Screening for Risk of Reading Difficulties: *In Brief*

(a) (1) The Legislature finds and declares that screening pupils for risk of reading difficulties, including dyslexia, is one of many tools that educators can employ to gain information about how to support their pupils' learning. Screening should be considered part of a school's comprehensive instructional strategy, and should be used by educators like other types of formative and summative assessments: to inform individualized instruction, measure a pupil's progress, identify pupil learning needs, and enable parents and educators to discuss pupil needs in a more informed way.

Santa Barbara County Education Office
Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent



Purpose of the Screener

- Ensure early identification and intervention with evidence-based early literacy instructional strategies and materials improves literacy outcomes for students
- Be used as part of a broader process that evaluates student needs and progress
- Inform individualized instruction, measure a student's progress, identify learning needs, and enable parents and educators to discuss needs in an informed way
- Provide assessments for both English-speaking and non-English speaking students in their primary language, if assessments in those languages are available

Curriculum AND Instruction Steering Comittee (CISC):

ELA/ELD Subcommittee

- Provides guidance for the Reading Difficulties Risk Screener (RDRS) to the field as LEAs move from adoption to implementation in the form of Toolkits:

1. Adoption Toolkit -1.0
    - approved for public distribution

1. Implemetation Toolkit -2.0
    - currently in review process



https://tinyurl.com/55vrveh8

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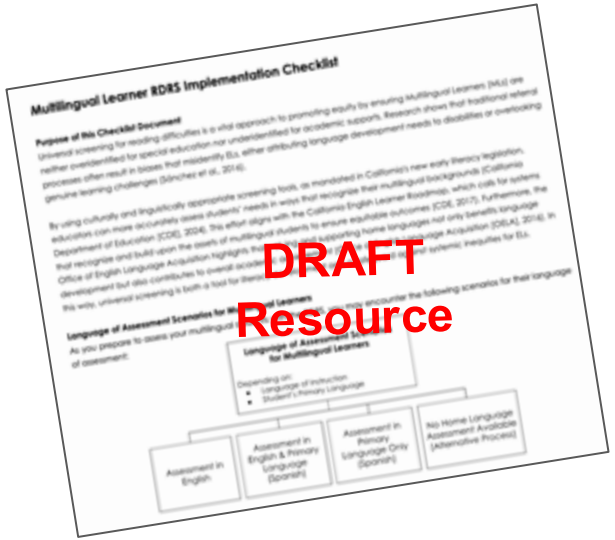
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https://tinyurl.com/56svkn3e

Multilingual Learner RDRS Implementation Checklist



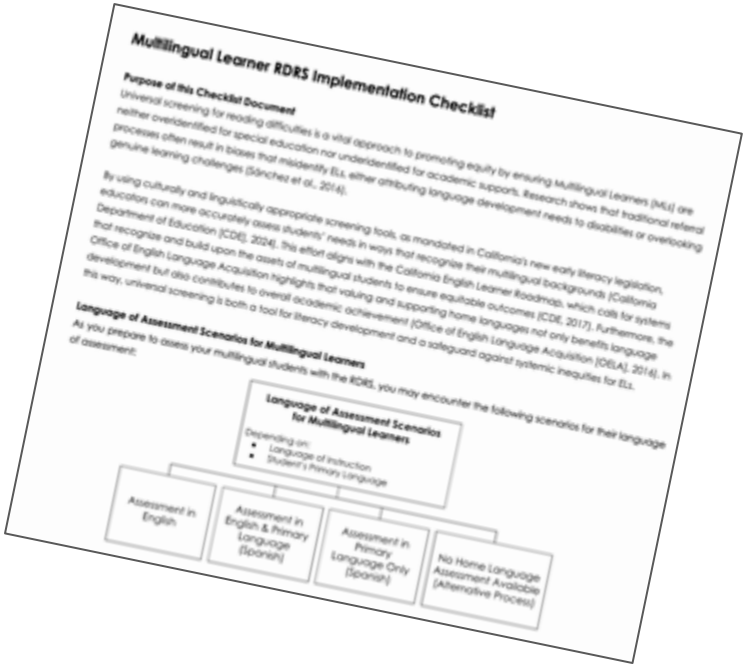
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RDRS Assessment for Multilingual Learners

For **Multilingual Learners (MLs)**, a screener can play a critical role in distinguishing between:

- Reading challenges related to learning to read, and
- Language development associated with acquiring English as an additional language.



Multilingual Learner RDRS Implementation Checklist

Purpose of this Checklist Document

Universal screening for reading difficulties is a vital approach to promoting equity by ensuring Multilingual Learners (MLs) are neither overidentified for special education nor underidentified for academic supports. Research shows that traditional referral processes often result in biases that misidentify ELL either attributing language development needs to disabilities or overlooking genuine learning challenges (Sánchez et al., 2016).

By using culturally and linguistically appropriate screening tools, as mandated in California's new early literacy legislation, educators can more accurately assess students' needs in ways that recognize their multilingual backgrounds (California Department of Education [CDE], 2024). This effort aligns with the California English Learner Roadmap, which calls for systems that recognize and build upon the assets of multilingual students to ensure equitable outcomes (CDE, 2017). Furthermore, the Office of English Language Acquisition highlights that valuing and supporting home languages not only benefits language development but also contributes to overall academic achievement (Office of English Language Acquisition [OELA], 2014). In this way, universal screening is both a tool for literacy development and a safeguard against systemic inequities for ELs.

Language of Assessment Scenarios for Multilingual Learners

As you prepare to assess your multilingual students with the RDRS, you may encounter the following scenarios for their language of assessment:

Language of Assessment Scenarios for Multilingual Learners

Depending on:
- Language of Instruction
- Student's Primary Language

Assessment in English

Assessment in English & Primary Language (Spanish)

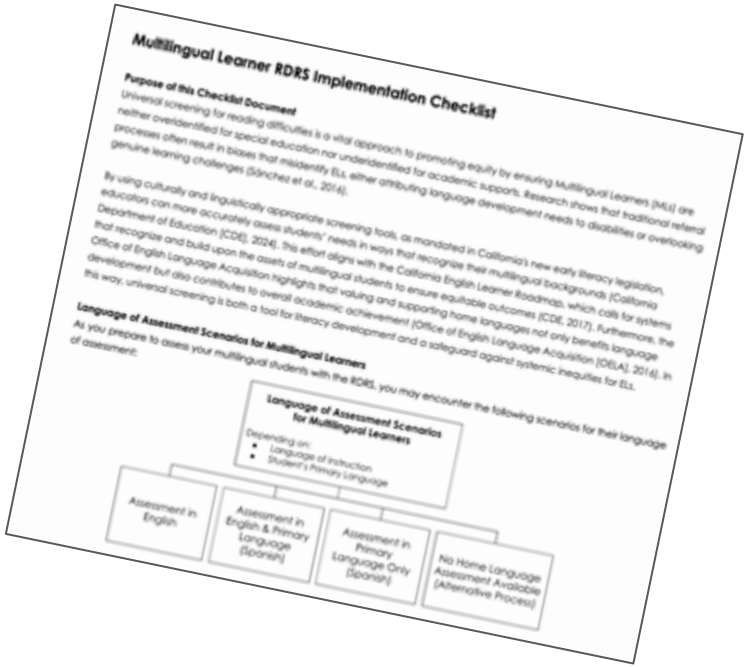
Assessment in Primary Language Only (Spanish)

No Home Language Assessment Available (Alternative Process)

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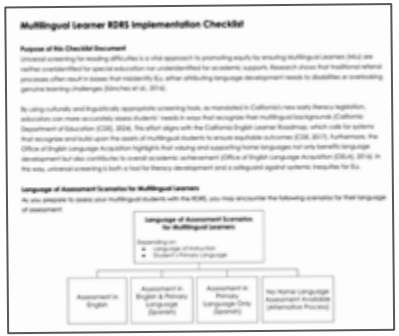
RDRS Assessment for Multilingual Learners Cont'd.

- Over- or under-identification of MLs is a known risk—careful administration and interpretation of screeners is critical.*
- Ensure the needs and best interests of your Multilingual Learner students are being met throughout the assessment process,
- from planning for administration through data analysis and responding to screener data.



https://tinyurl.com/56svkn3e

Notice & Wonder Activity



- Review the hard copy or digital version of of the checklist
- Jot down what you notice and wonder

Notice	Wonder

- Share Out



https://tinyurl.com/56svkn3e