



English Language Proficiency Assessments for California Initial ELPAC, 2025-2026

Dear Parent/Guardian:

When registering your child in a California public school for the first time, you listed that your child has a language other than English on the Home Language Survey. Therefore, your child will be assessed with the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California, or “Initial ELPAC.”

The Initial ELPAC may be administered remotely, in person, or through a combination of in-person and remote testing. Reed Union School District will administer the Initial ELPAC to all eligible students with the following administration mode:

- In-person testing
- Remote testing
- Combination of in-person and remote testing

[Remove the following paragraph and bulleted list if administering only in person] Your child will take the test from an off-campus location, most commonly their homes, and will connect with the test examiner on the computer. To make sure that each student receives the most accurate score, and to keep the test fair for all students, please follow these guidelines for student testing:

- You may help your child log on to enter the test session.
- Do not talk about the questions on the test or any materials for the test with anyone before, during, or after the test.
- No one may record the test or use a camera or any other device to take pictures of the test questions or of your child taking the test.
- To make sure the test is being completed by your child without any help, your child will be monitored through video and audio (a web camera and microphone) while taking the test.
 - o The camera is used only to observe your child and your child’s surroundings during the test and will not record the session. Please follow all instructions given by the test examiner about where to place the camera.
 - o If your child cannot use the computer’s camera, microphone, and speaker or headphone during remote testing, you may contact ***[insert name of contact]*** at ***[insert phone number and/or email address]*** for another way to administer the test to your child.

- For more information, visit the ELPAC Parent/Guardian Resources web page at <https://www.elpac.org/resources/parent-resources/>.

You are an important part of your child's education. To make sure your child feels comfortable taking these tests, you can

- explain to your child that these tests are used to help them learn, and they should not be anxious or scared;
- explore the practice tests with your child on the ELPAC Online Practice and Training Tests web page at <https://www.elpac.org/resources/online-practice-and-training-test/> so they can become familiar with the platform and setup of the tests; and
- remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and are there to help, every step of the way.

To learn more about the Initial ELPAC, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

You also can review sample test questions on the ELPAC Starting Smarter website at <https://elpac.startingsmarter.org>.

If you have any questions about your child taking the ELPAC, please contact Jennifer Conde at 415.388.7100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Kimberly McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Kimberly McGrath
Superintendent

The English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)

The ELPAC is the test that is used to measure how well students in kindergarten (K) through grade twelve understand English when it is not their primary language. Information from the ELPAC helps your child's teacher provide support in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



The ELPAC has two parts:

Initial ELPAC

WHO

Students take the Initial ELPAC if they have a primary language other than English and have never been previously classified as English learners.

WHAT

The Initial ELPAC is used to identify a student as either an English learner who needs support to learn English, or as fluent English proficient.

WHEN

Students are given the Initial ELPAC within 30 days of when they first enroll in a California school.

WHY

Identifying students who need help learning English is important so students can get the support they need to do well in school while receiving instruction in all school subjects.

Summative ELPAC

WHO

The Summative ELPAC is given to students who are identified as English learners.

WHAT

The Summative ELPAC is used to measure the skills of English learners. The results will help tell the school or district if the student is ready to be reclassified as fluent English proficient.

WHEN

Students who are English learners are given the Summative ELPAC every spring, between February and May, until they are reclassified as fluent English proficient.

HOW

The Summative ELPAC is an untimed computer-based test. Students in K through grade two will continue to take the Writing portion of the test on paper. Students in K through grade two will be tested on a one-to-one basis.

WHY

Students who are identified as English learners will take the Summative ELPAC to measure their progress in learning English.

The ELPAC tests four different areas:



Do students with disabilities take the ELPAC?

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

How Can I Help My Child Get Ready for the ELPAC?

You are an important part of your child's education. Some things you can do to help your child are:

- Read to your child, or have your child read to you, on a regular basis.
- Use pictures and ask your child to tell you what they see in the picture or what is happening in the picture.
- Provide your child with opportunities to use language outside of school.
- Talk with your child's teacher about your child's listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to help support your child's progress.



The ELPAC is aligned to the California English Language Development Standards. These standards can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/documents/eldstndpublication14.pdf>.

Sample questions, as well as links to practice tests and resources, are available on the Starting Smarter web page at <https://elpac.startingsmarter.org>.

Additional Information

More information about the ELPAC can be found on the California Department of Education ELPAC web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/>.

For more information about your child's scores, contact your child's teacher or the school office.



California Department of Education • July 2021