Assembly Bill 2555: What Families, Educators and Leaders Need to Know

California Has Changed How Students Become Reclassified as Fluent English Proficient

New Reclassification Criteria



What's changing?

Effective immediately, reclassification for students who tested in spring 2026 or later is based only on a student's qualifying score on the ELPAC or Alternate ELPAC. The district is currently reclassifying eligible students from the 2025/26 SY based on the new eligibility criterion signed into law on September 27, 2026.

Students are no longer required to meet four separate criteria to reclassify.

What does this mean for students?

Students can reclassify when they achieve:

Level 4 on the ELPAC OR Level 3 on the Alternate ELPAC

ELPAC testing takes place each spring (February – May). If a student did not receive a qualifying score in spring 2026, their next regular opportunity to reclassify will be based on the spring 2027 ELPAC.

What should families need to know?

If your student achieved a qualifying score on their 2026 ELPAC, please be advised that the Santa Barbara Unified School District is currently in the process of urgently reclassifying eligible students.

Reach out to your principal or your district's English learner services department to ask about their timeline and next steps. For students who qualified based on the spring 2026 assessment, districts have until January 31, 2027, to complete reclassification.

Beginning July 1, 2027, the California Department of Education will automatically record students as reclassified as qualifying scores become available.

If your student has not yet achieved a qualifying score:

Help your student continue building their English skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These skills are the best foundation for success on the ELPAC and qualifying for reclassification.

You can also help your child get more familiar with the assessment by exploring sample ELPAC tests here

Progress monitoring after reclassification

By January 2028, the state will establish a more consistent statewide approach and identify one or more instruments to support districts in monitoring students during their first four years after reclassification.

The bill also requires the California Department of Education to annually post data on reclassification rates, which will allow for consistent, comparable data to track progress.

Scan for more Information

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