

Supporting Your English Learner Child



This resource provides information on how to support children of families new to the United States or those who have multilingual children. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Always check with your child's teacher and school for any specific questions about your child's progress at school.

Based on the responses on the Home Language Survey, your child was identified to take an initial English language proficiency test. Your child took either the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) or the Initial Alternate ELPAC, and the results showed a need for support with learning English.

Information About Language Proficiency Tests

Initial ELPAC Fact Sheet: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/inelpacfactsheet23.pdf>

Summative ELPAC Fact Sheet: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/suelpacfactsheet23.pdf>

Alternate ELPAC Fact Sheet: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/inaltelpacfactsheet23.pdf>

Ways to Support Your English Learner Child

- Talk to your child about the assessment. Make sure your child knows that these assessments are important, but they are just one measure of learning. The teacher uses that information along with other information to make sure your child is getting the support they need.
- Practice English together.
- Continue literacy and language development in your home language.
- Instead of asking your child to translate school documents or conversations, ask the school for a staff member to translate.
- Find out about your school's English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) meetings.

Questions to Ask Your Child's Teachers

- When will the ELPAC be administered again?
- Which other assessments, such as benchmark and interim assessments, are being used to measure my child's progress in English Language Development (ELD) throughout the year?
- What ELD instruction is being provided to help my child at their English proficiency level?
- What supports are provided in other subject areas to help my child learn English?
- What are the impacts to academic instruction on my English learner child, such as pull-out and push in instruction or loss of electives?

What You Need to Know About Reclassification

Reclassification is the process for English learner students to exit support programs and services once they meet all reclassified fluent English proficient criteria. It is important to talk to your child about their goals for reclassification and biliteracy. You can learn about reclassification by asking your child's teacher, attending your school's ELAC meetings, and visiting the California Department of Education (CDE) Reclassification FAQs web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/rd/reclassificationfaqs.asp>.

Ask about the support that will be available for your child after reclassification and about the impacts on your child's academic instruction once they are reclassified. You can request information about the monitoring process for reclassified students at the school/district.

Additional Resources for Multilingual Families

ELPAC Domain Information Sheets

These resources provide information about the contents of the ELPAC. Visit the CDE ELPAC Domain Information Sheets web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/elpacdomaininfo.asp>.

State Seal of Biliteracy

The State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. Visit the CDE State Seal of Biliteracy web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/sealofbiliteracy.asp>.

Biliteracy Pathway Recognitions

The Biliteracy Pathway Recognitions are established to recognize students in preschool through middle school who have demonstrated progress toward proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English. Visit the CDE Biliteracy Pathway Recognitions web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/biltrcypathwy.asp>.

Survey, Assessments, Programs, & Reclassification

This web page provides information about the multi-step process to determine and assess a student's current English proficiency level and monitor their progress in learning English. Visit the CDE Survey, Assessments, Programs, & Reclassification web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/prntinfo.asp>.

Family Toolkit

The National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA) English Learner Family Toolkit was created to help families choose education services that meet their child's needs. Visit the NCELA Family Toolkit web page at <https://ncela.ed.gov/educator-support/toolkits/family-toolkit>.