



Multilingual Updates Newsletter

Information and Updates from the California Department of Education
(CDE) Multilingual Support Division (MSD)

Issue 30, September 2023

This newsletter is disseminated **quarterly** to keep you informed of new resources and guidance for supporting the English learners and multilingual learners you serve.

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Announcements

EWIG: ELAP

The Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill of 2022 (AB 185), Section 54, provides \$20 million, through the 2024-25 fiscal year, to support one or more competitive EWIG grants for professional learning opportunities for teachers and paraprofessionals, including **\$10 million** for qualified entities for developing and delivering **professional learning opportunities which support the implementation of effective language acquisition programs for English learner (EL) students**, which may include integrated language development within and across content areas, bilingual and biliterate proficiency, and building and strengthening capacity to implement the EL Roadmap Policy. Professional learning opportunities for teachers, paraprofessionals, school leaders, and counselors will include strategies for high-quality instruction aligned to the Quality Professional Learning Standards.

The CDE awarded the EWIG: ELAP funds to four county offices of education (COEs) that formed consortia to provide **free professional development to all interested local educational agencies (LEAs)** throughout California. Each grantee leads a zone that will serve the counties below. The makeup of each zone is based on the number of EL students the grant will impact.

Zone A Lead Grantee: Sacramento COE

Counties: Alameda, Alpine, Butte, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.

Zone B Lead Grantee: San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Counties: Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Monterey, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, and Tulare.

Zone C Lead Grantee: Los Angeles COE

Counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara.

Zone D Lead Grantee: Orange County Department of Education

Counties: Imperial, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego.

Additional consortia members across the zones include: California Association for Bilingual Education, Californians Together, California State University (CSU) San Bernardino, CSU Fullerton, National Resource Center for Asian Languages; Loyola Marymount – Center for Equity for English Learners; Stanford University Center to Support Excellence in Teaching; University of Southern California, and Sobrato Early Academic Language Model.

To participate in this professional learning opportunity, contact your local COE EL support person.

If you have questions about the EWIG ELAP, please contact the LPLO by phone at 916-319-0845 or by email at LPLO@cde.ca.gov.

OPTEL

The OPTEL, an observation protocol designed to support educators in monitoring and evaluating the academic language use of EL students, is intended to fulfill the requirement of California *Education Code* Section 313.3 regarding reclassification Criteria 2 (teacher evaluation) and Criteria 3 (parent consultation). For more information the reclassification criteria, please see the CDE Reclassification web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/rd>.

The OPTEL is designed to move California closer to statewide standardized exit criteria for reclassification to meet Section 3111 (b)(2)(A) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Please note that reclassification Criterion 1 is standardized as an overall performance level 4 on the Summative ELPAC.

WestEd conducted a field test of the OPTEL tool, concluding on March 31, 2023, to determine if the tool is valid for the intended purposes. Teachers of all subjects at all grade levels, Transitional Kindergarten through grade 12, who teach EL students were invited to participate. The number of teacher-educator pairs who signed up for the field test totaled 171. Any additional educators with ratings yet to be submitted are highly encouraged to submit their ratings set, even if not fully complete.

On May 30, 2023, the Language Policy and Leadership Office (LPLO) and WestEd convened the OPTEL Advisory Committee (OAC). The OAC reviewed initial analytic data from the field testing and provided recommendations regarding the OPTEL instrument design, implementation, and reclassification decision making for Criteria 2 and Criterion 3.

By the end of summer 2023, WestEd will submit a validation study report to the CDE describing and explaining the description of the methods, general results of the field

testing, and results of the validation study. The MSD will present an action item regarding the OPTEL to the State Board of Education in November 2023.

For more information on this process, visit the CDE Observation Protocol for Teachers of English Learners web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/t3/optel.asp>.

If you have questions about the OPTEL, please contact the LPLO by phone at 916-319-0845 or by email at OPTEL@cde.ca.gov.

Dual Language Learner Support Web Page Update

The CDE Early Education Division would like to provide an update on the Dual Language Learner (DLL) Support web page. As a reminder, this web page provides technical support, guidance, and resources for the identification, reporting, and support of dual language learners in California State Preschool Programs.

The CDE Early Education Division recently added the following resources to the website: the DLL Support Webinar Series recordings and PowerPoint presentations, evidence-based practices for supporting DLLs, research on DLLs, and classroom supports. As a reminder, the CDE will be updating the web page periodically to offer additional resources and support materials.

You may access the DLL Support web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/dllsupport.asp>.

If you have questions about the DLL Support web page or any of the topics above, please contact the Early Education Division by phone at 916-322-6233.

Professional Learning

New CTC Educational Opportunities Board

The **new Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) Educational Opportunities Board** at <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/roadmap-to-teaching/educational-opportunities-board> includes links to upcoming professional learning opportunities.

To submit a professional learning opportunity to be included on the board, please email the CTC at careerguidance@ctc.ca.gov and include:

- Link to the flyer on your organization's website (preferred)
- Remediated or accessible pdf flyer (if not accessible, it will not be posted in the format received and may result in delayed posting)
- Date(s) of event
- Exact date the posting should be taken down

If you have questions about the CTC Educational Opportunities Board, contact the CTC at careerguidance@ctc.ca.gov.

Assessment

2023–24 ELPAC Guide Available

The updated **2023–24 English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Information Guide** is now available at

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/documents/elpacinfo24.docx> and includes the California State Board of Education approved guidelines for meeting Criterion 1 for reclassifying students who take the Summative Alternate ELPAC. It also features an enhanced domain exemptions section providing greater context and scoring clarification, and an introduction to the newly created Alternate Assessment Decision Making Tool for California, available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/altassessmentdecision.pdf>.

If you have questions about the ELPAC, please contact the English Language Proficiency and Spanish Assessments Office by phone at 916-319-0784 or by email at ELPAC@cde.ca.gov.

Literacy and Biliteracy

AB 370: State Seal of Biliteracy

The requirements for the State Seal of Biliteracy remain the same for the 2023–24 school year at this time. If signed into law, AB 370 would amend the requirements for the State Seal of Biliteracy for 2024 graduates, effective January 1, 2024. Information about whether AB 370 will take effect will be available after October 14, 2023, the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature.

For more information on AB 370, please see the California Legislative Information AB 370 web page at https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB370.

If AB 370 becomes law, the information and resources on the CDE State Seal of Biliteracy web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/sealofbiliteracy.asp> will be updated to reflect the new requirements and an email will be sent to the CDE Multilingual Updates Listserv notifying members of the new requirements. If you have not yet subscribed to the CDE Multilingual Updates Listserv, subscribe by sending a blank email to join-multilingual-support-division-updates@mlist.cde.ca.gov.

If you have questions about the State Seal of Biliteracy, please contact Gina Garcia-Smith, Education Programs Consultant (EPC), MSD, by phone at 916-319-0265 or by email at SEAL@cde.ca.gov.

New: University Seal of Biliteracy and Cultural Competence Handbook

San Diego State University (SDSU) has developed a new University Seal of Biliteracy and Cultural Competence Handbook. This handbook is a valuable resource for institutions of higher education that may be interested in starting a University Seal of Biliteracy and Cultural Competence program.

According to SDSU, “SDSU’s University Seal of Biliteracy and Cultural Competence (USBCC) is a digital badge that SDSU students can earn by participating in a cultural and linguistic immersion experience and demonstrating Working Proficiency through standardized testing that covers reading, writing, listening, and speaking in a language other than English. SDSU’s USBCC is a standardized measurement of biliteracy skills and is open to all students who meet the requirements, regardless of their pathways to proficiency in their languages.”

For more information and to access a free copy of the handbook, visit the SDSU University Seal of Biliteracy and Cultural Competence web page at <https://www.sdsu.edu/international-affairs/events-and-initiatives/biliteracy-seal>. The handbook is towards the bottom of the page and requires you to fill out your information to request a free copy.

This resource was developed as part of the Multilingual California Project, funded by the Educator Workforce Investment Grant (EWIG): EL Roadmap Implementation.

CDE Seeking Multilingual Text Suggestions for the Recommended Literature List

The CDE is seeking suggestions for multilingual books to include in the next update of the Recommended Literature: Prekindergarten through Grade Twelve (Recommended Literature List). The Recommended Literature List is an annually updated searchable database of books to help students, teachers, and families find books that entertain, inform, and explore new ideas and experiences. Our committee of volunteer educators updates the Recommended Literature List each summer with the latest and best in children’s and young adult literature.

The CDE would love your suggestions for recently published, high quality literature for students in languages such as Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, etc. **To submit a title for our committee to consider, please fill out this survey:** <https://surveys2.cde.ca.gov/go/reclitsuggestion.asp>.

To learn more about the Recommended Literature List, please visit the CDE Recommended Literature web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/rl>.

If you have questions about the Recommended Literature List, please email the team at LiteratureList@cde.ca.gov.

Resources

ED Spanish Language Facebook Page

The U.S. Department of Education has launched a Spanish language Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/USEducacion>. This page is used to share information, updates, and resources with parents, families, and other interested parties in Spanish.

ED Fact Sheet: Ensuring Meaningful Participation in Advanced Coursework and Specialized Programs for Students Who Are English Learners

The ED Fact Sheet: Ensuring Meaningful Participation in Advanced Coursework and Specialized Programs for Students who are English Learners provides information English learner student enrollment in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment, and other specialized programs.

According to the ED, “schools must ensure that eligibility for such programs, including appropriate evaluation and testing procedures, do not screen out students who are English learners because of their limited English proficiency unless an advanced or specialized program is demonstrated to require proficiency in English for meaningful participation. Additionally, students who are English learners remain entitled to appropriate language assistance services while participating in advanced or special programs.”

The fact sheet is available as a PDF in English at

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-factsheet-ap-participation-el.pdf> and **in Spanish** at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-factsheet-ap-participation-el-sp.pdf>.

Bookshare: Free eBook Library for Students with Disabilities

Bookshare is a free resource for qualifying students that provides access to books in a variety of formats to allow students with disabilities to customize their reading experience. To join Bookshare, students must have a qualifying disability like dyslexia, blindness, low vision, retinitis pigmentosa, and cerebral palsy. Educators can sign up all qualified students and provide unlimited access to books.

For more information on how Bookshare works, visit the Bookshare for Schools web page at <https://www.bookshare.org/cms/bookshare-me/schools>.

Bookshare also includes books in languages other than English. To search for books by languages, visit the Bookshare Advanced Search web page at <https://www.bookshare.org/search> and select the language from the drop down menu.

National P–3 Center Report on California!

Over the last two years, the CDE and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) have engaged with the National P–3 Center both to build a collective understanding of effective and impactful PreKindergarten through Third Grade (P–3) strategies within the CDE and the CTC, and to identify specific strategies that will inform and guide the future of our state-level P–3 alignment initiative.

The National P–3 Center recently released its report, which reviews key features of P–3 approaches and outlines a comprehensive list of potential state-level policy reform strategies for California to consider. **Access the report "Great Start California: Advancing the California Department of Education's P-3 Vision"** at <https://nationalp-3center.org/resources/great-start-california-p-3-vision> to find out more about this important work.

Early Edge Multilingual Learning Toolkit

Early Edge California and partners have launched a website for practitioners supporting Multilingual Learners in PreK through Third Grade! **The Multilingual Learning Toolkit**, available at <https://www.multilingualllearningtoolkit.org>, is an online hub featuring research-based key principles, instructional strategies, and associated, free, practical, and easy-to-use resources that are focused on supporting the learning experience of children in PreK through Third Grade who have developed or are developing proficiency in both English and one or more languages. The Toolkit provides a vetted selection of resources and best practices specifically for educators who support young multilingual learners as well as teacher education faculty and is the result of a collaborative effort that includes researchers, practitioners, advocacy organizations, state agencies, and philanthropic organizations from California and across the nation.

Hear what educators and experts in the field have to say about the Toolkit in the Multilingual Learner Toolkit YouTube video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVIAI6bLnuU>, and share the Multilingual Learner Toolkit with your colleagues who are educators, administrators, or faculty members focused on supporting the learning experiences of multilingual learners.

Webinars

Raise the Bar: Create Pathways for Global Engagement and Multilingualism for All Recorded Webinar

Date and Time: Recorded on August 3, 2023

Description: "Raise the Bar: Lead the World" is the U.S. Department of Education's call to action to transform education and unite around what works—based on decades of experience and research—to advance educational equity and excellence. As part of ED's Raise the Bar efforts to create pathways for global engagement, the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) hosted a webinar to introduce and discuss the

Raise the Bar Initiative in the context of English and multilingual learner education. During this event, panelists reflected on the importance of early learning, dual language, the seal of biliteracy, and parent engagement as levers for multilingualism and multiliteracy in today's global society and economy; and discussed ways to elevate multilingualism among English learners and all students.

Panelists included:

- **Montserrat Garibay**, Assistant Deputy Secretary & Director, OELA
- **Melissa Castillo**, Senior Advisor, OELA
- **Dr. Jasmine Brann**, Principal, Tyler Elementary School
- **Robert Medina**, Director, English Learner Program Sobrato Philanthropies
- **Tamara Nogueira-Ramirez**, Seal of Biliteracy Graduate
- **Julissa Esquivel**, Principal, Lorenzo G. Loya Primary
- **Dr. Amy J. Heineke**, Professor of Education, Loyola University Chicago

Link: View the recorded webinar on the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition Rais the Bar web page at https://ncela.ed.gov/events/2023-08-03-webinar-raise-the-bar-create-pathways-for-global-engagement-and-multilingualism?utm_source=nexus_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=rtb_multilingualism_webinar

Contact Information

For questions regarding multilingual and EL programs and services, please contact the Multilingual Support Division by phone at 916-319-0938 or by email at MSD@cde.ca.gov. You may also visit the CDE English Learners web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/sealofbiliteracy.asp>.

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