

A Parent Guide To Understanding The Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)

We know that your child brings many strengths with them to school, and also may need extra support in the classroom.

Who Takes This Test?

When you registered your child for school, you listed a primary language other than English. Your child will take the Initial ELPAC to determine if they need additional support in the classroom while learning English.



Why Do Students Take This Test?

The Initial ELPAC will help identify if your child needs help learning English. Students are tested on their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, which will give information to your child's teacher about the areas where your child needs extra support.

When Do Students Take This Test?

Students are given the Initial ELPAC within 30 days of when they first enroll in a California school. You will receive additional information from your child's school about when the test will be given.

How Do Students Take This Test?

This is an untimed test taken on a computer, but help is available for students who cannot use the computer on their own. The test is given to students in grades 3–12 in small groups except speaking, which is given one-on-one. Students in kindergarten through grade 2 are tested one-on-one for the whole test, although writing may be administered in small groups to grade 2 students.

What Resources Are Available?

Your child will have access to resources they need when taking the test, like a highlighter, notepad, or scratch paper. These resources help students access the test and do not affect the students' scores in any way. You can talk to your child's teacher about other available resources that may help your child, and about your child's listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to support their learning.

How Can I Help My Child?

- Remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and that you are there to help them every step of the way.
- Visit the [Starting Smarter website](#) to better understand Student Score Reports, review sample questions, and access resources to support your child's learning.
- Take a practice test with your child from the [CAASPP and ELPAC Practice and Training Tests web page](#).

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

