

The Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)

The Alternate ELPAC is designed for students in kindergarten through grade twelve (including students through 21 years of age) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. These students are also English learners (Summative) or potential English learners (Initial), who have been identified as having a primary language other than English. Furthermore, their individualized education program (IEP) team has determined that they are eligible for an alternate assessment.



Initial Alternate ELPAC

| WHO | WHAT | WHEN |
|---|---|---|
| Students who have a primary language other than English, have never been previously classified as English learners, and are eligible for an alternate assessment. | The Initial Alternate ELPAC is used to identify a student as either an English learner who needs support to learn English, or as fluent English proficient. It is specifically for students who are eligible for an alternate assessment. | Students are given the Initial ELPAC within 30 days of when they first enroll in a California school. |
| HOW | WHY | |
| The Initial Alternate ELPAC is an untimed computer-based assessment administered one-on-one by a test examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs. | Identifying students who need help learning English is important so students can get the support they need to do well in school. | |

Summative Alternate ELPAC

| WHO | WHAT | WHEN |
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| Students who are identified as English learners and are eligible for an alternate assessment. | The Summative Alternate ELPAC measures the skills of English learners and will help tell the school or district if the student is ready to be reclassified as fluent English proficient. | Students who are English learners are given the Summative Alternate ELPAC every spring, between February and May*, until they are reclassified as fluent English proficient. |
| HOW | WHY | |
| The Summative Alternate ELPAC is an untimed computer-based assessment administered one-on-one by a test examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs. | Students who are identified as English learners will take the Summative Alternate ELPAC to measure their progress in learning English. | |

*The Summative Alternate ELPAC Operational Field Test is postponed until Fall 2021. Please visit the ELPAC website at <https://www.elpac.org> for updates on the testing window.

The Alternate ELPAC tests a student's Receptive (Reading and Listening) and Expressive (Speaking and Writing) skills.

However, students can respond in their preferred mode of communication for all test questions. Some examples of communication modes are: verbal, one-word responses, or non-verbal such as pointing, nodding, eye gaze, and using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices.

What resources are available for students?

Students may use instructional or physical resources listed in their active IEP (for example, amplification, magnification, and a scribe).

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

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

- Discuss the test with your child and make sure they are not scared or anxious.
- Read with your child regularly.
- Provide your child with opportunities to communicate outside of school.
- Review test results with your child and discuss with their teacher where they might need additional help.



The Alternate ELPAC is aligned to the 2012 California English Language Development (ELD) Standards via the ELD connectors within the Alternate ELPAC Test Blueprints. These standards and connectors can be found at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/documents/altelpacblueprint.pdf>.

Practice and training tests are available on the ELPAC Online Practice and Training Tests web page at <https://www.elpac.org/resources/online-practice-and-training-test>.

Additional Information

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

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

