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# ENGLISH LEARNER UPDATES NEWSLETTER: COVID-19 EDITION 2

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Information and Updates from the California Department of Education (CDE) English  
Learner Support Division

Issue 4, April 10, 2020

## *New Weekly Format*

This is the second of a **special series of COVID-19 English Learner (EL) Updates Newsletters focusing on school closures and services for English learners**. This newsletter will be disseminated **weekly** to keep you informed of new resources and guidance for supporting the English learners you serve.

### *This Issue Includes:*

- **English Language Development (ELD):**
  - ELD and equity in the age of distance learning
  - Highlighted ELD resources for distance learning
- **Parent Communication:** Supporting parents with distance learning
- **Reclassification**
  - Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) update
  - Criterion one and four guidance
- **Grades and Graduation:** New guidance released
- **Webinar:** Distance Learning: Instructional Strategies and EL Support webinar recorded
- **Special Educator Workforce Investment Grant (EWIG) Update:** EWIG: EL Roadmap Policy Implementation grantees announced
- **Resources:** Links to resources on the CDE COVID-19 web page relevant to English learners

## ELD

### *ELD and Equity in the Age of Distance Learning*

English learners must continue to receive designated and integrated English Language Development (ELD) as part of their educational curriculum. Local educational agencies (LEAs) have the flexibility to determine how services will be provided to English learners. The LEA can determine where, when, and what the students receive in order to continue to make progress toward English language proficiency and meet grade level academic achievement.

Although there are no minimum number of minutes required, ELD is a required course of study for English learners. For English learners, equity includes the ability to learn the language students need to fully access grade level content:

- Districts are creating a dedicated time for designated ELD in the distance learning schedule.
- Integrated ELD provides English learners access to the academic content they are learning. Integrated ELD instruction includes providing scaffolding for learning in the content areas.
- Not all distance learning may take place virtually. Some approaches to distance learning include a hybrid of virtual learning and assignment packets. For rural areas, using local television stations to broadcast lessons and assignment packets may be a way to provide access.
- For those students who do not have access to computers or tablets, many districts are providing the equipment for students to check out. Districts can also guide families on how to access low-cost or free internet for their devices.

For further resources on supporting English learners with distance learning, visit the CDE COVID-19 Resources that Support Distance Learning web page at <https://bit.ly/DistanceELD>.

### *Highlighted ELD Resources for Distance Learning*

**Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL) Article:** The article “Six Key Considerations for Supporting English Learners with Distance Learning” by Heather Skibbins highlights six key research foundations for English learners and explains what they mean in the context of distance learning. The article is available on the SEAL website at <https://bit.ly/SEALarticle>.

**The New Teacher Project (Tntp) Article:** The article “Supporting Multilingual Learners/English Language Learners during the COVID-19 Shutdown” provides guidance and resources for educators including links to tech tools and resources that support literacy, multiliteracy, and language development. Available on the Tntp website at <https://bit.ly/TntpArticle>.

**USA Learns:** This free website helps older students and adults learn English and includes video lessons and activities that build speaking, listening, vocabulary, pronunciation, reading, writing, and grammar skills. Available on the USA Learns website at <https://www.usalearns.org>.

**Wide Open School:** This website includes links to resources supporting English learners with ELD and home language development. Available on the Wide Open School English Language Learners web page at <https://bit.ly/WideOpenSchoolELL>.

**BrainPOP ELL:** This is an English language instruction site for English learners of all ages. The curriculum is comprised of short, animated movies as well as games, quizzes and interactive features. Users practice the four principle language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Available on the BrainPOP ELL website at <https://ell.brainpop.com/>.

## Parent Communication

### *Supporting Parents with Distance Learning*

Now is the time to continue to build learning partnerships with parents. Parents need support to learn what they can do to help their students with distance learning. All districts have a legal obligation to communicate with parents in a language they can understand. Doing so also promotes a stronger relationship between parents and the school which benefits student learning.

Students and families are juggling a new reality and priorities at home, so set reasonable expectations about how much parents will be available to assist their children with distance learning. Provide reassurance to parents that reading, talking about the text, and teaching their children in their home language helps their children.

Use the Alas y Voz COVID-19 resources for parents to support Spanish speaking families with distance learning. Available on the Californians Together Alas y Voz Crisis del Corona Virus web page at <https://www.californianstogether.org/alas-y-voz/>.

Share the ELSD Distance Learning Parent Newsletter with your community. This newsletter will be posted weekly and includes information on school lunches and internet access as well as a few parent-friendly distance learning resources focused on a different theme each week. The newsletter is available on the CDE New COVID-19 Guidance for K–12 Schools web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/guidance.asp> under “Parent Resources.”

## Reclassification

### *Summative ELPAC*

The Summative ELPAC was suspended for the 2019–20 school year. More information regarding the details of the optional fall 2020 administration of the Summative ELPAC will be provided at a later date through the LEA ELPAC coordinators.

For more information regarding the administration of the Initial and Summative ELPAC, visit the Assessment Spotlight web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/assessmentspotlight.asp>

### *Reclassification Guidance*

**Criterion One:** LEAs can use the results for students who completed the 2019–2020 Summative ELPAC in the spring to determine reclassification eligibility. CDE is looking at ways to offer an optional Summative ELPAC administration window in the late summer/fall, so that LEAs can administer the ELPAC to students who did not complete testing in the spring and use the results to meet criterion one eligibility for reclassification.

**Criterion Four:** For all grade levels, LEAs can use local assessments or the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Smarter Balanced Summative English language arts assessments from 2018–2019 or 2019–2020, if available and applicable.

To view the most recent guidance letter on reclassification, visit the CDE Reclassification web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/rd/>.

## Grading and Graduation

### *New Guidance Released*

The CDE and the State Board of Education issued new guidance on graduation requirements and grading for seniors. The guidance is based on feedback from LEAs and was produced in collaboration and alignment with institutions of higher education. The guidance was developed in response to questions posed by parents and students about grading, including interrupted courses being completed through distance learning, whether courses can be graded as pass or credit instead of assigned letter grades, and the impact of those decisions on college admissions and high school graduation requirements. For detailed information, visit the CDE College Admissions, Grading, and Graduation Requirements web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/collegereqsinformation.asp>.

## Distance Learning: Instructional Strategies and EL Support Webinar

### *Webinar Recording Available*

The CDE hosted a webinar highlighting Glendale Unified School District, Natomas Unified School District, and introducing resources to support English learners during distance learning. The webinar took place live on Thursday, April 9, 2020, via Zoom and Facebook Live.

A recorded version of the webinar is available on the CDE Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CAEducation/videos/>.

## Special EWIG Update

### *EWIG: EL Roadmap Policy Implementation Grantees Announced*

The CDE is excited to announce that the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) and Californians Together were selected through a competitive grant process to receive five million dollars each to design and conduct professional learning activities focused on implementation of the California English Learner Roadmap State Board of Education Policy: Educational Programs and Services for English Learners (EL Roadmap Policy). These two organizations have expertise in developing and providing professional learning to teachers and paraprofessionals in public schools serving kindergarten and grades one to twelve, inclusive. The funds are to support the grantees as they design and deliver professional learning activities that support system-wide implementation of the EL Roadmap Policy that aligns with the California Statewide System of Support. Congratulations to CABE and Californians Together!

For further information, please visit the CDE EWIG: EL Roadmap Policy Implementation Request for Applications web page at

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r28/elroadmap19rfa.asp>.

## COVID-19 Resources and Information

### *Links to Resources Relevant to English Learners on the CDE COVID-19 Web Page*

#### [New COVID-19 Guidance for K–12 Schools](#)

Links on this web page include resources for distance learning, school meals, special education guidance, and child care and student supervision.

#### [Getting Internet Access: Available Plans](#)

This web page provides a list of internet providers, including those offering free internet, with links to their web pages for more information.

**For questions regarding English learner programs and services, please contact the Language Policy and Leadership Office by email at [LPLO@CDE.ca.gov](mailto:LPLO@CDE.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-319-0845. You may also visit the [CDE EL web page](#).**

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