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## English Learner Updates Newsletter: COVID-19 Edition (8)

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

*Issue 10, May 22, 2020*

### **Weekly Format:**

This is the eighth 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:**

**Early Childhood:** CDE Early Learning and Care Division (ELCD) Publication: *Responsive Early Education for Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness*

**Assessment:** Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Operational Field Test

**Policy:** May Revise and trailer bill

**Parent Resources:** Distance Learning Parent Newsletters in Five Languages

### **Webinars:**

- Posted: Distance Learning English Language Development (ELD) and Dual Language Instruction (DLI) webinar
- Upcoming: Californians Together Communities of Practice: Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Students through Distance Learning webinar
- Upcoming: California Collaborative for Education Excellence (CCEE) Distance Learning Modules
- Upcoming: Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL) Engaging Families in Distance Learning webinar
- Upcoming: CDE Response to COVID-19 Webinars: Impact on Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and County Offices of Education (COEs) that receive Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Grants
- Upcoming: California Teachers Association (CTA), with Region 15 Comprehensive Center Network and CDE, Webinar Series to Support English Learners

### **Resources:**

- Links to resources on the CDE COVID-19 web page relevant to English learners

## Early Childhood

### CDE ELCD Publication: Responsive Early Education for Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness

The CDE ELCD has released a new online publication: *Responsive Early Education for Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness*. This publication is the third publication to be released in a special topic series entitled *Best Practices for Planning Curriculum for Young Children*. It follows two previous publications, *Family Partnerships and Culture* and *The Integrated Nature of Learning*.

This publication assists early learning and care providers in developing, planning, and implementing exciting and engaging learning experiences targeted to support children and families experiencing homelessness. The information presented is science-based and trauma-informed, highlighting the importance of trust-building to connect children and families to high quality early education that encourages children to be life-long learners.

To download this free publication, please visit the CDE ELCD Publications web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/cddpublications.asp#other>.

If you have questions about this or other publications from the ELCD, please contact the ELCD at [ELCDpublications@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ELCDpublications@cde.ca.gov).

## Assessment

### Alternate ELPAC Operational Field Test

The Alternate ELPAC operational field test (census) will be administered in January and February 2021. As the new school year approaches, it is essential for individualized education program (IEP) teams to begin preparations well in advance for this operational field test. It will include **all eligible students**; that is, English learner students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, as indicated in their IEP. LEAs can prepare for this test administration by conducting planning discussions with IEP teams to determine eligibility. The document “ELPAC Administration Guidance and Governing Definitions for Student Accessibility Discussions” is available to guide those discussions on the CDE CAASPP System web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/documents/elpacadminguide.pdf>.

Also available are the CDE Alternate Assessment IEP Team Guidance web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/caaiepteamrev.asp> and the Alternate Assessment Decision Confirmation Worksheet on the CDE CAASPP System web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/altassessmentdecision.pdf>, which provide more information about alternate assessment participation guidelines. Begin your planning now to ensure a successful Alternate ELPAC operational field test administration!

If you have questions about the Alternate ELPAC or the ELPAC, please contact the CDE English Language Proficiency and Spanish Assessments Office by email at [elpac@cde.ca.gov](mailto:elpac@cde.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-319-0784.

## Policy

### May Revise and Trailer Bill

The May Revise and trailer bill include policy priorities addressing English learners and migrant education. The 2020–21 May Revision is available on the California Department of Finance California Budget 2020–21 web page at <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov>.

Senate hearings are occurring this week and next week. The hearings are being webcast live on the California State Assembly Committee on Budget Hearings web page at <https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/hearings>.

## Parent Resources

### Distance Learning Parent Newsletters in Five Languages

During COVID-19 related school closures, the CDE English Learner Support Division is publishing a weekly Distance Learning Parent Newsletter. The newsletter includes important information and updates about internet access, school lunches, and distance learning. Starting with issue three, the newsletter is available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Filipino, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Each week, this newsletter focuses on a different topic or theme and provides parents with resources related to that theme.

#### *Themes by Week:*

- Week 8, May 22, 2020: History and Social Science
- Week 7, May 15, 2020: Mathematics
- Week 6, May 8, 2020: Special Education
- Week 5, May 1, 2020: English Language Arts
- Week 4, April 24, 2020: Early Education
- Week 3, April 17, 2020: Multilingual Education
- Week 2, April 10, 2020: English Language Development
- Week 1, April 2, 2020: Introductory Issue

All issues of the Distance Learning Parent Newsletter are available on the CDE EL Updates Newsletters web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/elnewsletters.asp>. Please share this newsletter widely with parents in your community!

## Webinars

### Distance Learning ELD and DLI Webinar

**Date:** May 14, 2020, at 1 p.m. (recorded webinar posted)

**Description:** The CDE English Learner Support Division hosted a webinar on how to provide ELD and DLI during distance learning. This webinar highlights the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools for its effective distance learning ELD program and the Woodland Joint Unified School District for its effective DLI program. By highlighting these programs, LEAs will have the opportunity to see the CDE guidance in action in these model programs.

**Link:** CDE ELD Webinar May 14, 2020, web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/dlel20200514.asp>

## Californians Together Communities of Practice: Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Students through Distance Learning Webinar

**Date:** May 26, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Join Californians Together for a collaborative discussion about how to support immigrant and refugee students through distance learning. Educators will share how they are able to support immigrant and refugee students. A space will be created for educators to share in a facilitated breakout session.

**Link:** Californians Together Meeting Registration web page at <https://bit.ly/CalTogImmigrant>

## CCEE Distance Learning Modules

**Date:** Many

**Description:** To support LEAs' transition to virtual learning, the CCEE is partnering with technical assistance providers and expert practitioners to provide resources, guidance, training, and ongoing professional learning for schools and districts. Topics include culturally responsive teaching, planning professional development during COVID-19, parent engagement, designing distance learning with an equity lens, and many more. Please see link below for all of the topics available and links to register for sessions.

**Link:** CCEE COVID-19 Distance Learning Technical Assistance Resources web page at <https://ccee-ca.org/distance-learning.asp>

## SEAL Engaging Families in Distance Learning Webinar

**Date:** May 27, 2020, at 12 p.m.

**Description:** While sheltering in place, the role of the connection between home and school is of the utmost importance. As we wrap up this school year, teachers, coaches, and other support staff are invited to learn about strategies, tools, and resources to help families transition into summer and prepare for the new school year.

**Link:** SEAL Webinar Series May 2020 Registration Form at <https://bit.ly/SEALwebinar>

## CDE Response to COVID-19 Webinars: Impact on LEAs and COEs that Receive CSI Grants

### Dates:

- LEA Webinar: May 27, 2020, at 10 a.m.
- COE Webinar: May 27, 2020, at 2 p.m.

**Description:** The CDE is providing LEAs and COEs with an opportunity to participate in a webinar that will address questions generated due to the impact of Covid-19.

**Link:** Zoom meeting direct link at <https://cdevideo.zoom.us/j/95348187976>

**Password:** 181813

If you have questions about this webinar, contact the School Improvement and Support Office (SISO) by phone at 916-319-0833 or by email at [SISO@cde.ca.gov](mailto:SISO@cde.ca.gov). For more information about CSI, visit the CDE CSI web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/sw/t1/csi.asp>.

## CTA, with Region 15 Comprehensive Center Network and CDE, Webinar Series to Support English Learners

### *Effective Questioning in Grades K-2: The Development of Oral Language in a Distance Learning Environment*

**Date:** May 27, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Oral interactions promote the development of conceptual understandings and language proficiency. Ensuring young English learners have multiple opportunities to practice language and discuss grade-level content is essential. In this webinar, teachers will learn effective questioning techniques that can be used to design activities for distance learning environments that promote text-based discussions.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- Introduction to oral language development and its importance for English learners
- Strategically designing questions to support language development using grade-level texts
- Increasing opportunities for student talk in distance learning environments

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarMay27>

### *Linking, Describing, and Critiquing in Secondary Mathematics: Supporting English Learners' Oral Language Development*

**Date:** June 1, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Language is at the center of students' development of mathematical understanding and engagement in mathematical practices. Oral language development and disciplinary discourse are indispensable for the development of knowledge and growth in language proficiency. In this webinar, secondary math teachers will learn how to design content-specific learning experiences that promote oral language development in distance learning environments.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- Introduction to oral language development and its importance for English learners
- The importance of oracy in developing mathematical understanding
- Continua for quality interactions
- Activities and tools supporting student engagement in mathematical practices

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarJune1>

### *Elementary Educators: Communicating with Families of English Learners During Distance Learning*

**Date:** June 3, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Maintaining regular communication with families of elementary students is critical in this time of distance learning. Elementary students need family support to be successful with home-based learning and many families need guidance on how to best support their children at home. In this webinar, participants will learn how educators can communicate regularly with families of young English learners to increase student success.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- The need for home-school connections during distance learning
- Challenges for home-school communication and learning support
- Ideas and resources that aid in communicating with families and caregivers of English learners
- Recommendations and activities for families and caregivers of young English learners

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarJune3>

### *Supporting Secondary English Learners in the Social Studies Classroom*

**Date:** June 8, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Structuring opportunities for students to participate in quality and sustained interactions, where they engage in rigorous back-and-forth discussions about a historical topic in a virtual environment can present some challenges. One approach to help teachers make lessons more accessible to English learners is integrating the use of carefully selected multimodal texts such as historical maps, photographs and video into the design of lessons. This

webinar will deepen teachers' understanding of the development of oral language for English learners and provide some strategies that can be applied to distance learning environments.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- Introduction to oral language development and its importance for English learners
- How to enable oral language development in a distance learning environment?
- What resources support quality interactions for English learners?
- Using multimodal texts to invite interactions

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarJune8>

*Analyzing Text Themes in Grades 3–5: The Development of Oral Language in a Distance Learning Environment*

**Date:** June 10, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Oral interactions promote the development of conceptual understandings and language proficiency. Ensuring English learners have multiple opportunities to practice language and discuss grade-level content is essential. In this webinar, upper elementary teachers learn how to support grade 3–5 students' oral language development by asking questions that promote student analysis of a text's key themes in distance learning environments.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- Introduction to oral language development and its importance for English learners
- Strategically designing questions to support text analysis and language development using grade-level texts
- Increasing opportunities for student talk in distance learning environments

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarJune10>

*How to Prepare Dual Language Elementary Students to Engage in Conversations Around Central Ideas with High-Quality Texts*

**Date:** June 15, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Given the pervasive practice of engaging students with the text without building the field or inviting prior knowledge to make sense of it, a common design challenge faced by teachers of bilingual and emerging-bilingual students is how to structure invitations for students to engage their own experiences and knowledge to support the intellectual work of the lesson. This webinar will highlight the importance of surfacing students' prior experiences and activating their prior knowledge in dual-language classrooms.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- Inviting students' prior experiences and knowledge: Why is it so important?
- Student-centered activities to incorporate their prior knowledge and experiences: How can we do it?

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarJune15>

### *How to Engage Dual Language Elementary Students with High-Quality Texts*

**Date:** June 17, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** This webinar will build from the webinar, *How to Prepare Dual Language Elementary Students to Engage in Conversations Around Central Ideas with High-Quality Texts*, and introduce dual language educators to teaching and learning approaches and processes that support elementary students' abilities to access and engage in disciplinary literacy practices with high quality, complex texts. Instruction designed to ensure high quality interactions with texts allow students to develop metacognitive and metalinguistic practices while building and practicing their understanding of language.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- The critical thinking and literacy practices needed to succeed in the twenty-first century
- A research-based approach to meaningfully engaging elementary dual language students with high quality texts that lead to:
  - The development of metacognitive and metalinguistic practices;
  - Deepened understandings of key concepts and themes within and across texts; and
  - Support rich understandings of language.

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarJune17>

### *Supporting Secondary English Learners in the Science Classroom*

**Date:** June 22, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Oral language development and disciplinary discourse are indispensable for the development of knowledge and growth in language proficiency. Drawing upon recent recommendations regarding evidence-based instructional practices, science teachers will learn about ideas and activities for developing English learners' oral language by interacting with peers and engaging in the learning and doing of science and engineering.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- Introduction to oral language development and its importance for English learners
- Asking questions and defining problems

- Analyzing and interpreting data, and
- Engaging in argument from evidence

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarJune22>

### *Facilitating Secondary ELA English Learners' Oral Language Development While Engaging in Distance Learning*

**Date:** June 24, 2020, at 4 p.m.

**Description:** Based on the premise that learning takes place through social interaction, participants of this webinar will consider the difficulties that distance learning presents for English learners. Participants will receive tangible tools and processes for supporting oral interactions and language development of secondary English language arts students in distance learning environments that promote literacy development.

The following topics will be addressed in this session:

- Introduction to oral language development and its importance for English learners
- Modeling of three ways to scaffold and support English learners' oral language development in distance learning

**Link:** WestEd Meeting Registration web page at <https://tinyurl.com/ELWebinarJune24>

## **COVID-19 Resources and Information**

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

Please visit the CDE Coronavirus (COVID-19) web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp> for the latest updates on information and resources regarding COVID-19 and California's response

- **COVID-19 Guidance for K–12 Schools** at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/guidance.asp>  
Links on this CDE web page include resources for distance learning, school meals, special education guidance, and child care and student supervision.
- **Getting Internet Access: Available Plans** at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/498321>  
This CDE web page provides a list of internet providers, including those offering free internet, with links to their web pages for more information.
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Webinars** at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/499850>  
This CDE web page provides links to all CDE webinars related to COVID-19.

**For questions regarding English learner programs and services, please contact the English Learner Support Division by email at [ELSD@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ELSD@cde.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-319-0938. You may also visit the CDE English Learners web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/>.**

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