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# English Learner Updates Newsletter: COVID-19 Edition (9)

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

*Issue 11, May 29, 2020*

## **Last Weekly Issue:**

This is the ninth 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 monthly starting in June 2020**.

## **This Issue Includes:**

### **Policy:**

- State Superintendent of Public Instruction's response to governor's budget
- U.S. Department of Education (ED) Fact Sheet: Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak

### **School Meals:**

- Action for Healthy Kids School Grants programs
- COVID-19 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) parent pick-up waiver

### **Webinars:**

- California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) and English Learner Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) Coordinators Webinar
- California Collaborative for Education Excellence (CCEE) Distance Learning Modules
- California Teachers Association (CTA), with Region 15 Comprehensive Center Network and CDE, Webinar Series to Support English Learners
- Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) Engaging Young Multilingual Children in Joyful Book Reading and Creative Writing (K–2) Webinar
- Language Learning Project: Strategies for Supporting Dual Language Learners Birth to Five Webinar

### **Resources:**

- **New:** California Parent and Youth Helpline
- **New:** Social and Emotional Support in Distance Learning web page
- Links to resources on the CDE COVID-19 web page relevant to English learners

## Policy

### State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond Issues Statement in Response to Governor Gavin Newsom's Budget

On May 14, 2020, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Thurmond issued a statement in response to Governor Newsom's updated budget proposal. Superintendent Thurmond stated, "The COVID-19 crisis has had a disastrous impact on the state's economy, and the updated projections today offer sobering details of that reality. I want to thank Governor Newsom for working hard to prioritize and preserve public education as one of the vital, core services we must protect as we weather this economic downturn. Today's updated budget proposal includes a variety of measures designed to avoid permanent cuts to education, which otherwise could have lasting impacts on a generation of students."

To read the full statement which includes a summary of what the kindergarten through grade twelve budget proposal includes, visit CDE News Release #20-34: State Superintendent Tony Thurmond Issues Statement in Response to Governor Newsom's Updated Budget Proposal on the CDE website at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/nr/ne/yr20/yr20rel34.asp>.

### ED Fact Sheet: Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak

On May 18, 2020, the ED released the Fact Sheet: Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak. This fact sheet outlines states' responsibilities to English learners and their parents during the extended school closures and, in some cases, the move to remote learning due to the national emergency caused by the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). A local educational agency (LEA) should collaborate with its state educational agency and local public health department, as appropriate, in implementing the guidance provided in this fact sheet. This document does not create any rights for any person and does not impose any additional requirements beyond those included in applicable law and regulations. It is intended to provide additional information about requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of and other Federal laws related to English learners in light of COVID-19 and this specific situation. The CDE, as the state agency, will provide the state specific guidance once the budget is signed by the governor.

The fact sheet is available on the ED COVID-19 ("Coronavirus") Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel web page at <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus?src=feature>.

## School Meals

### Action for Healthy Kids School Grants Programs

The CDE Nutrition Services Division is sharing information about the Emergency Meal Equipment Grants for California. The Action for Healthy Kids is offering grants to support schools with equipment purchases to help distribute food safely, create grab-and-go curbside pick-up, and mobile delivery options.

Emergency Meal Equipment Grants range from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for schools to purchase equipment through Hubert. Interested schools should apply immediately. Grant applications are currently available and will be awarded weekly until all funds are awarded. You will receive award notification within a week of your application submission.

For more information, visit the CDE Action for Healthy Kids School Grants Support web page at <https://www.actionforhealthykids.org/covid-19-support-for-schools-and-families>.

For comprehensive guidance on school meals during COVID-19, visit the CDE School and Child and Adult Day Care Meals web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/schoolmeals.asp>.

If you have questions about this program, contact Ellen Dillon, Action for Healthy Kids Senior Field Manager, by email at [edillon@actionforhealthykids.org](mailto:edillon@actionforhealthykids.org). If you have questions about school meals, contact the CDE Nutrition Services Division by phone at 800-952-5609.

### **COVID-19 FFVP Parent Pick-up Waiver**

Effective immediately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has granted the CDE Nutrition Services Division a waiver through June 30, 2020, to allow school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the FFVP to distribute the FFVP snack to a parent or guardian at an approved FFVP school site to take home to their children during an unanticipated school closure due to COVID-19.

The SFAs participating in the FFVP must ensure that the FFVP snacks are distributed only to parents or guardians of eligible children, and that duplicate snacks are not distributed to the same child. In addition, the SFAs must demonstrate that the waiver does not result in an increase to the overall cost of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

If you are interested in implementing this waiver to allow parents or guardians to pick up the FFVP snack on behalf of the child, you must send an email to [FFVP@cde.ca.gov](mailto:FFVP@cde.ca.gov) to opt-in and state how you plan to provide FFVP foods only to parents or guardians of eligible children, and that no duplicates are distributed to any child. Within the next year, all FFVP grantees who opt-in to use the waiver will receive an email to complete a mandatory report.

This FFVP Parent Pick-up Waiver is effective immediately and will remain in effect until June 30, 2020, or until expiration of the federally declared public health emergency, whichever is earlier.

For more information, visit the CDE Covid-19: FFVP Parent Pick-up Waiver web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/ffvpparentpickupwaiver.asp>.

For more comprehensive COVID-19 school meal guidance, visit the School and Child and Adult Day Care Meals web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/schoolmeals.asp>

### ***Contact Information***

If you have any questions regarding this subject, contact the CDE FFVP Team, by phone at 916-322-9943 or by email at [FFVP@cde.ca.gov](mailto:FFVP@cde.ca.gov).

If you have questions about school meals, contact the CDE Nutrition Services Division by phone at 800-952-5609.

## Webinars

### CDE CALPADS and ELPAC Coordinators Webinar

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

**Description:** Join the CDE for a special WebEx concerning CALPADS, a longitudinal data system used to maintain individual-level data, including the English Language Acquisition Status field used to administer the Initial and Summative ELPAC.

This one-hour webinar is being offered to help LEA CALPADS and ELPAC coordinators better understand the start-to-finish process of language designation. It will cover how to navigate the language fields of CALPADS, resulting in more timely and accurate lists of students who need to take the ELPAC.

**Link:** SCOE WebEx for CALPADs and ELPAC Coordinators registration web page at <https://bit.ly/CALPADsWebinar>

### 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 the 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>

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

To access webinars that were previously recorded as part of this series, visit the WestEd Archived Webinars web page at <https://www.wested.org/webinars-home/archived-webinars>.

*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>

## **SCOE Engaging Young Multilingual Children in Joyful Book Reading and Creative Writing Webinar**

**Date:** June 17, 2020, from 9 to 11 a.m.

**Description:** In this interactive online session, Dr. Pamela Spycher from WestEd will share practical strategies for engaging grades kindergarten through grade two multilingual children in joyful, language rich storybook reading, oral retelling, and creative writing. Dr. Spycher will focus on cultivating children's love of literacy, creativity, and language development and offer tips for supporting parents and families through distance learning. During the session, you will have an opportunity to interact with other teachers to discuss ideas and ask questions. Participants will leave with free online resources to continue your learning.

District and site administrators, instructional coaches and teachers, and site and district teams are encouraged to attend this webinar.

**Link:** SCOE webinar Zoom link at <https://scoe.zoom.us/j/98696538703>

## **Language Learning Project: Strategies for Supporting Dual Language Learners Birth to Five Webinar**

**Date:** June 10, 2020, 9 a.m. to noon

**Description:** This webinar is hosted by the CDE, Early Edge California, the Fresno Unified School District, and the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools. Due to the concerns regarding COVID-19, the Language Learning Project Leadership Orientations, originally planned to be held as in-person meetings, will now be delivered online.

The Leadership Orientation is designed to disseminate a Dual Language Learner Toolkit to agencies and communities across California providing guidance on serving young dual language learners and their families.

The toolkit is based on the innovative practices including Personalized Oral Language(s) Learning (POLL) strategies, which are concrete approaches that support learning in all environments for children birth to five years of age. The toolkit was developed by early childhood experts, including Dr. Linda Espinosa, Dr. Sue Bredekemp, Dr. Carola Oliva-Olson, Elizabeth Magruder, and Whitcomb Hayslip.

**Link:** Fresno County Superintendent of Schools Early Care and Education web page at <https://fresno.k12oms.org/1139-183723>

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

### **California Parent and Youth Helpline**

The California Department of Social Services is supporting Parents Anonymous in the launch of the new California Parent and Youth Helpline. Please share information about the helpline with your community.

The California Parent and Youth Helpline provides support and resource referrals to parents and youth during the current COVID-19 pandemic 7-days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call or text 1-855-4APARENT (855-427-2736) for services in English, Spanish, and other languages. For more information, please visit the California Parent and Youth Helpline website at <https://caparentyouthhelpline.org>.

### **The CDE Social and Emotional Support in Distance Learning Web Page**

The new CDE Social and Emotional Support in Distance Learning web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/se/seldistance.asp> provides a range of social and emotional learning options for educators, administrators and other school leaders, and families/guardians to utilize as they support their students—and themselves—during this time of learning remotely.

If you have questions about the CDE Social and Emotional Support in Distance Learning web page or the resources linked there, please contact Julia Agostinelli, Education Programs Consultant, Educator Excellence and Equity Division, by email at [JAgostinelli@cde.ca.gov](mailto:JAgostinelli@cde.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-322-9503.

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

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

- **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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