



TONY THURMOND
State Superintendent
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Observation Protocol for Teachers of English Learners (OPTTEL) Information Session



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Goals/Objectives

Participants will learn about the:

- Purposes and characteristics of the OPTEL;
- *Education Code* Section 313.3 requirements;
- Role of the OPTEL Advisory Committee (OAC);
- Timeline of OPTEL development; and
- Anticipated State Board of Education (SBE) approval.



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Background

- The OPTTEL is an observation protocol that moves California closer to meeting the Every Student Succeeds Act requirement for statewide standardized exit criteria.
- The OAC is the expert advisory committee for OPTTEL development and alignment with the English language development (ELD) standards and the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC).



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Reclassification Criteria

1. Assessment of English language proficiency (**ELPAC Overall Performance Level 4**);
2. Teacher evaluation, including, but not limited to, a review of the student's curriculum mastery (**locally-determined**);
3. Parent opinion and consultation (**locally-determined**); and
4. Comparison of student performance in basic skills against an empirically established range of performance in basic skills of English proficient students of the same age (**locally-determined**).



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Design and Purpose

- The design of the OPTTEL ensures:
 - Ease of use by all content area teachers at all grade levels
 - Alignment with the ELD standards and the ELPAC performance levels
- The OPTTEL tool draft is available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/dec19memoelsd01a02.pdf>.



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Design and Purpose (2)

Teachers use the OPTEL to:

- Provide evidence that contributes to reclassification decisions for all English learners, including those with Individualized Education Plans (IEP).
- Evaluate student use of English while engaging in academic content learning, including interactive academic language use with peers.
- Assess language practices across a range of proficiency levels.



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Additional Purposes

To also be used:

- By teachers as a formative assessment tool in order to support student progress toward English proficiency.
- In consultation with parents of English learners regarding their progress toward proficiency.
- By institutions of higher education that enroll students in teacher preparation programs.



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Validation Study

A validation study will be conducted to ensure the protocol appropriately:

- Assesses the intended target language constructs;
- Demonstrates a meaningful relationship to the performance levels for the ELPAC;
- Assesses classroom language use; and
- Reflects student progress toward attaining targeted constructs.



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OPTEL Timeline

- **December 2018:** Contract to co-develop, pilot, and validate an observation protocol to support reclassification decisions for English learner reclassification Criteria 2–3
- **December 2019:** SBE memoranda available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/dec19memoelsd01.docx>
- **February 2020:** Field test activities began
- **March 2020:** Field test halted due to COVID-19 school closures



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OPTEL Timeline (2)

- **June 2020:** Project completion date extended to December 2022 and field test postponed until 2021–2022 school year
- **October 2020:** SBE memoranda available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/pn/im/documents/oct20elsd01.docx>
- **July–December 2021:** Recruitment/training for field test
- **December 2021:** Provide SBE update by memorandum
- **Spring 2022 (January–April):** Spring field test



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OPTEL Timeline (3)

- **May 2022:** Interim validation study executive summary
- **June 2022:** OAC Meeting #3 (in-person as allowed) to review comprehensive report summarizing participating teacher feedback from the 2022 field testing, a summary of OAC discussion, and recommended edits to the OPTEL
- **July 2022:** Final validation study executive summary
- **September 2022:** The OPTEL goes to SBE for approval
- **December 2022:** OPTEL final guidance documents, parent informational tools, and resources are completed



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OPTEL Contact Information

- For additional information, please visit the CDE OPTEL web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/t3/optel.asp>
- Email: OPTEL@cde.ca.gov