

ELPAC Participation Rate in the ELPI



The English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI) uses the Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) and Summative Alternate ELPAC taken each spring to report on the progress English learner (EL) students are making towards English language proficiency at their districts, county offices of education (COEs), and schools. To ensure that districts, COEs, and schools are testing all current EL students, they must meet or exceed a participation rate of 95 percent on the Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC. Since the 2024 California School Dashboard (Dashboard), districts, COEs, and schools are held accountable for meeting or exceeding the 95 percent participation rate for Long-Term English Learner (LTEL) students.

Districts, COEs, and schools that do not meet the 95 percent participation rate on the Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC and have the minimum number of EL or LTEL students enrolled during the testing window (February 1 to May 31) will receive a modified ELPI Status rate on the Dashboard. Districts/COEs must have at least 30 EL students or 15 LTEL students enrolled during the testing window. Schools must have at least 30 EL or LTEL students enrolled during the testing window.

Who Is Counted as Participating in the Summative ELPAC?

For the Summative ELPAC, EL students who log on to at least one domain (Listening or Speaking in the Oral Language composite and Reading or Writing in the Written Language composite) in each composite are counted as participating.

Oral Language Composite

Listening

Speaking

Written Language Composite

Reading

Writing



Who Is Counted as Participating in the Summative Alternate ELPAC?

For the Summative Alternate ELPAC, EL students must be administered, at a minimum, one Receptive item (Listening or Reading) and one Expressive item (Speaking or Writing) from anywhere within the assessment. Please note that a "Mark as No Response" is also considered a valid response and, therefore, counts as a completed item.

Receptive



Listening



Reading

Expressive



Speaking



Writing

For more information about participation on the Summative Alternate ELPAC, refer to the Alternate ELPAC Participation and Scoring document on the [California Department of Education \(CDE\) Alternate ELPAC web page](#).

Calculating the ELPAC Participation Rate

The ELPAC participation rate is calculated for districts, COEs, or schools that meet the minimum number of students enrolled in the current Dashboard year based on ETS enrollment. The ELPAC participation rate is calculated as follows:

Number of EL/LTEL students who were tested on the 2026 Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC

Divided by

Total number of EL/LTEL students enrolled

Equals

ELPAC participation rate

Example

Chia Elementary School had 46 EL students enrolled during the Summative ELPAC testing window. Chia Elementary School tested 39 out of the 46 EL students on the Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC. The school’s ELPAC participation rate is 84.8 percent (39 divided by 46 equals 84.8 percent). As a result, Chia Elementary School did not meet the 95 percent participation rate target.

Participation Rate Impact

For each district, COE, or school that does not meet the 95 percent target, the minimum number of LTEL/EL students needed to reach a participation rate of at least 95 percent is determined. The resulting number of students will be counted as not making progress in the ELPI Status rate calculation.

Example

Continuing the previous example, Chia Elementary School had an ELPAC participation rate of 84.8 percent.

This calculation shows the school needed to test 44 students to meet the 95 percent ELPAC participation rate:

0.95 multiplied by 46 equals 43.7

The 43.7 is rounded up to 44, the number of EL students needed to meet the 95 percent ELPAC participation rate. The difference between the number of students needed to meet the goal and the number of students tested is determined:

44 minus 39 equals 5

These 5 students will be added to the denominator and counted as not making progress towards English language proficiency in the ELPI Status rate calculation.

ELPI Methodology	ELPI Numerator	ELPI Denominator	ELPI Status Rate	ELPI Status Level
ELPI Status Rate	24	39	61.5%	High
Modified ELPI Status Rate	24	44 (39 plus 5)	54.5%	Medium

As shown above, Chia Elementary School's ELPI Status level was High, but with the modified ELPI Status rate, the school's ELPI Status level is now Medium. This ELPI Status of Medium will be used, along with the Change, to determine the overall performance color for this school.

For more information, visit the [CDE California School Dashboard and System of Support web page](#).

Contact the Analysis, Measurement, and Accountability Reporting Division by email at dashboard@cde.ca.gov.



August 2026