

Assessment Spotlight

ELPAC: Answering Your Questions in Detail

The California Department of Education (CDE) and testing contractor Educational Testing Service continue their commitment to supporting local educational agency (LEA) staff in ways that allow them to best serve their students and support their teachers—and are taking extra measures to do so during this truly challenging time.

The following questions and answers are included in this week's Assessment Spotlight to provide you with further clarification and additional information related to the administration of the Initial ELPAC and test administration options:

Q: I am still not sure about the 30-day requirement and other dates we have been provided. What does it all mean?

A: At the moment, there is still a 30-day requirement for Initial ELPAC testing. A 45-day extension is being proposed through trailer bill language, and we will know at the end of this month whether it is approved. While the regulations state that you must complete testing within 30 days, the CDE understands that the current situation may prevent the timely completion of testing. At the very least, within the first 30 days, LEAs must use the results of the Home Language Survey to identify presumptive English learner students and notify their parents/guardians that English language development will occur during distance learning until such time that it is safe to administer the Initial ELPAC in person/co-located or remotely.

If your LEA does not meet the 30-day requirement, please document that testing was delayed due to COVID-19-related circumstances and place the documentation in the student's cumulative record or the student information system. The CDE is developing a delayed testing letter template and will notify coordinators as soon as it is available. It is recommended that LEAs develop a local procedure for assessment administration and results dissemination during this time and make it readily available for reference.

Students who are enrolled on or before October 7, 2020, will be included in the 2020–2021 census data reporting. If Initial ELPAC testing is completed before November 13, 2020, the California

Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) will be updated with the student's English Language Acquisition Status, which will be reported for 2020–2021. Testing and scoring should be completed no later than November 12, 2020, to have CALPADS updated by November 13, 2020.

Q: When will the Test Administration Guidelines be available?

A: The original date for the guidelines to be sent was August 21, 2020. However, a few issues arose that need to be reworked in such a way that the guidelines will not only provide instructions but also ensure that we are doing all we can to help LEAs protect both the student's privacy and the confidentiality of the assessments. We should be sending out instructions next week.

Q: Can I start using the test administration options that were recently provided in issue 100 of the Assessment Spotlight?

A: If an LEA can assess students in person/co-located, then testing may start or continue as long as it is safe to do so. LEAs may use computer-based testing or paper-pencil testing. LEAs need to ensure that they are following all of the guidelines to keep students and test examiners safe. Please check the current guidelines issued by your municipality, county office of education, and county health office and the California Department of Public Health, the CDE, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Q: Could you direct us to the informal assessment identified in the CDE's English Learner Support Division parent letter template just released on the [CDE's Parent Notification web page](#)?

A: To clarify, there is **no** informal assessment being recommended by the state to determine English language proficiency. LEAs should use their locally determined informal assessments to place their students in English Language Development services while providing distance learning until they are officially tested in person or remotely with the Initial ELPAC.