

# English Language Proficiency Assessments for California Updates

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Bilingual Coordinators Network Meeting

February 2021

## Overview

- Continuous Improvements
- Spring Administration /Remote Testing Guidance
- Coffee Chat Sessions
- Up-to-date Federal guidance

## Continuous Improvements

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The most significant improvements are:

1. LEAs no longer have to attain parent consent. We worked with our legal team and concluded that as long as LEAs inform parents and guardians that students will be tested remotely, parent consent is no longer required but alternative testing options should be listed for in-person. This parent information letter is located on the [ELPAC website](#) and is translated into the top **seven** languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Filipino, and Russian.
2. Test examiners can test up to 20 students in a group setting for grades 3–12 Listening, Reading, and Writing. If LEAs want to test more than 20 students at a time, a proctor can also be assigned a test session and group of students to monitor but the test examiner must be consulted when questions are asked to ensure that responses are correct based on their training. If there are concerns about cheating, submit a Security and Test Administration Incident Reporting System (STAIRS) incident to request an irregularity flag, which will be included on the student's Student Score Report. If multiple students are involved, one STAIRS report can be submitted for that group of students. It's not necessary to submit them individual reports.
3. For kindergarten through grade two Writing, we determined several options for collecting students' Writing responses. Students can now either write down their Writing

responses on a white board, a sheet of paper, or the Student Writing Response Sheet, which can be picked up by parents or emailed home. This response sheet is located in the [Moodle Training Site](#). The Answer Books will remain with the Test Examiner, and they can use a snipping tool to take a snapshot of the student's writing while the student holds it up to the screen and then transcribe the responses onto the Answer Book immediately after testing. **Snapshots cannot be saved and need to be deleted immediately after transcribing the response.** This new approach removes the financial burden of mailing the Answer Books and the security around LEAs collecting them for submission.

## Spring Administration/Remote Testing Guidance

**LEAs may do a combination of remote and in-person testing. It's not necessary to select one or the other.**

The [Spring Administration/Remote Testing Guidance](#) web page includes information about the remote testing options, browsers both secure and web-based, the technology requirements, and options for how to provide students with their SSIDs in a secure manner.

We also have a **number of** [videos](#) for educators, parents/guardians, and students to help all understand how remote testing works so they can feel comfortable as much as possible in preparation for live testing.

Note that this web page is regularly being updated with additional information and resources, as they become available.

## ELPAC Frequently Asked Questions

This ELPAC FAQ web page also includes a comprehensive list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that LEAs can use as a great resource for getting their questions answered. This page is also regularly updated as we receive additional questions from the field.

## The Moodle Training Site

**Summative training materials in the Moodle Training site were also updated based on feedback from the field.**

We have also developed and posted Addendums to the Directions for Administration (DFAs) which are focused on slight changes to the directions/say statements in the DFAs to assist

with remote testing. They are not embedded within the DFAs so those who are able to test in person would not have to navigate their way through the remote testing information to get to the in-person testing directions.

The Addendums are located in the [Moodle Training Site](#).

## Practice Tests

### Recommendations to Prepare for Testing

To have the best experience with testing, it is recommended that test examiners and test administrators run at least two practice sessions with students. The first session can be set up using a video meeting application, with students using the web-based version of the student testing interface. The second session can be set up with students using the secure browser.

### Why Two Practice Sessions?

By completing at least two sessions, students and test administrators or examiners can become comfortable with logging on to a test session remotely and using the new widgets in the student testing interface. During the first practice, students can stay on the video session as the test administrator or examiner walks them through logging on, testing the camera and microphone, and using the new widgets.

During the second practice attempt, students will need the test session ID and their SSID. Students will use the secure browser to log on. This means that students will not be able to communicate with the test administrator or examiner until they have entered the actual practice assessment. This will work the same way when they take the actual assessments.

## Parent Web Page

A [Parent Web Page](#) has also been developed and is located on the ELPAC website. This web page includes detailed information about how to take a remote assessment at home. Included are detailed instructions for how to download the secure browser onto any of three devices (Windows, Mac, and IPad). In addition, these instructions are also provided via videos that have been translated into Spanish. Lastly, there is a [Question and Answer](#) section to help answer questions about testing remotely at home.

Note that this web page is also being regularly updated with additional information and resources, as they become available.

## Coffee Chat Sessions

Scheduled for: **February 26, and March 5, 12, 19, and 26**. All sessions are from 2–3 p.m. Register through the [ELPAC website](#). Under the Training Tab, select [Upcoming Training Opportunities](#).

**Between ETS, the SCOE training TEAM, and the CDE, we are all here to assist and help all to feel comfortable and successful during the spring administration.**

## **Federal Guidance – February 2021**

The State Board of Education will be discussing how to proceed with spring summative assessments based on the most current federal guidance.

### **Contact Information**

The CDE assessment staff are here to assist you.

- For ELPAC, send an email to [elpac@cde.ca.gov](mailto:elpac@cde.ca.gov)

**To sign up for the Assessment Spotlight, send a blank email message to [subscribe-caaspp@mlist.cde.ca.gov](mailto:subscribe-caaspp@mlist.cde.ca.gov).**