

Assessment Fact Sheet

Initial Alternate

English Language Proficiency Assessments for California



What Is the Initial Alternate ELPAC?

The Initial Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (Alternate ELPAC) is used to determine the English language proficiency (ELP) of students whose primary language is not English. It is administered only once during a student's time in the California public school system, based on the results of the home language survey. The ELPAC is aligned with the 2012 California English Language Development (ELD) Standards via the ELD Connectors and assesses the four domains in an integrated manner. This test is designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who are potential English learner (EL) students whose individualized education program (IEP) teams have determined that they are eligible for an alternate assessment.



Why Is the Initial Alternate ELPAC Given?

The purpose of the Initial Alternate ELPAC is to determine a student's initial classification as an EL student or as fluent English proficient. Identifying students who need help learning in English is important so students get the extra support they need to do well in school while receiving instruction in all school subjects.



Who Takes the Initial Alternate ELPAC?

The Initial ELPAC will be given to students in kindergarten (K) through grade twelve (through twenty-one years of age) whose primary language is not English to determine their ELP status. Upon enrolling in a California public school, a student's IEP team may determine that alternate assessments are most appropriate for a student.



How Is the Initial Alternate ELPAC Given?

This is a computer-based assessment administered one-on-one in person by a trained test examiner who is familiar with the student's preferred mode of communication and their needs. The student will interact with a test examiner who will collect and record responses, although some students may navigate the test independently, depending on their abilities. The Initial Alternate ELPAC is untimed; test items will be administered to the student over the course of one or more testing sessions, as needed, for the student to complete the assessment. Testing times vary by grade level and student. Time estimates are available on the [CAASPP and ELPAC Alternate ELPAC: Estimated Testing Times web page](#).



When Is the Initial Alternate ELPAC Given?

The Initial Alternate ELPAC administration window is open from July 1 through June 30. The test must be administered within 30 calendar days of the student's first day of instruction in a California public school.

