

Assessment Fact Sheet

Initial

English Language Proficiency Assessments for California



What Is the Initial ELPAC?

The Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (Initial 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 Initial ELPAC is aligned with the 2012 California English Language Development Standards and assesses four domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. The Initial ELPAC is used to identify students as being either an English learner or fluent English proficient. The locally scored Initial ELPAC is the official score.



Why Is the Initial ELPAC Given?

The purpose of the Initial 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 ELPAC?

The Initial ELPAC will be given to students in kindergarten (K) through grade twelve (through twenty-one years of age) to determine their ELP status. Students whose disabilities preclude them from accessing one or more domains with allowed universal tools, designated supports, or accommodations will be eligible for domain exemptions as identified in the individualized education program (IEP). If a student is determined to be eligible for alternate assessments by their IEP team, they will take the Initial Alternate ELPAC.



How Is the Initial ELPAC Given?

The Initial ELPAC is a computer-based assessment for all grade levels except for K through grade two writing, which is a paper-pencil test. The Initial ELPAC is an untimed test. Students in K through grade two will be tested one-on-one for all domains, except for grade two writing which may be administered in small groups. In grades three through twelve, the test is administered in groups except for speaking, which is assessed one-on-one. Testing times vary by grade level, domain, and student. Time estimates are available on the [CAASPP and ELPAC Initial ELPAC: Estimated Testing Times web page](#).



When Is the Initial ELPAC Given?

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

