

A Parent Guide To Understanding The Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (Alternate ELPAC)

We know that students who are multi-lingual learners bring many assets with them to the classroom. We also know that sometimes these students need supports in the classroom so they can do well in English language arts, math, science, history, and other subject areas.

Who Takes These Tests?

Students who have the most significant cognitive disabilities and are, or might be, English learner students are eligible to take the Alternate ELPAC. The Initial Alternate ELPAC is given to students with a primary language other than English. The Summative Alternate ELPAC is given to all English learner students.



Why Do Students Take These Tests?

The Alternate ELPAC is the test we use to measure how well students understand English when it is not the language they speak at home. Students are tested on their receptive skills of reading and listening, and their expressive skills of writing and speaking, which will give information to your child's teacher about the areas where your child needs extra support.

When Do Students Take These Tests?

The Initial Alternate ELPAC is given to students only once, within 30 days of enrollment in a California school. If they are classified as an English learner student, the Summative Alternate ELPAC is given every spring until students are reclassified as proficient in English. You will receive additional information from your school about the specific dates and times of testing.

How Do Students Take These Tests?

These tests are untimed, taken on a computer, and are administered one-on-one with a test examiner who is familiar with the student and their needs. Your child may use sign language, eye gaze, pointing, gestures, alternative communication devices, or other alternate modes to comprehend and express information.

What Resources Are Available?

Your child will have access to resources they need when taking the test. In addition to those listed in their active individualized education program (IEP), students may use other instructional or physical resources. You can talk to your child's teacher about other available resources that may help your child.

How Can I Help My Child?

- Remind your child that you and their teacher want them to try their best and that you are there to help them every step of the way.
- Visit the [Starting Smarter website](#) to better understand Student Score Reports, review sample questions, and access resources to support your child's learning.
- Take a practice test with your child from the [CAASPP and ELPAC Practice and Training Tests web page](#).

For more information about your child's scores, contact your child's teacher and/or the school office.

