



Cambrian School District

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How are students identified as English learners?

Newly-enrolling students who have a home language other than English, based on the Home Language Survey, are given the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to determine their level of English proficiency.

Why did my child take the CELDT test?

When you enrolled your child in one of our schools, you indicated that a language other than English is spoken in your home on the Home Language Survey. We are required by law to administer the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to all students who have a language other than English, included on their Home Language Survey.

What is the CELDT?

The State of California requires all public school districts to administer the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). The CELDT is used to:

- Initially determine the English language proficiency of all newly-enrolling students who have a language other than English in their homes
- Monitor the progress of our English Learners in acquiring English (once each year)
- Help determine if an English Learner is ready to be reclassified out of the English Learner Program
- CELDT is **not** an achievement test – it just lets us know where the student is in the process of acquiring English proficiency.

What does the CELDT Assess?

The CELDT has four sections: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Cambrian School District utilized the results to determine those students who are eligible to receive English Learner (EL) services.

What scores does a student receive on the CELDT?

Students receive a score for each section, as well as an Overall score. The five proficiency levels are:

- Beginning (Level 1)
- Early Intermediate (Level 2)
- Intermediate (Level 3)
- Early Advanced (Level 4)
- Advanced (Level 5)

In grades 2-12, all four sections of the test are weighted equally to come up with an Overall score. At grades K-1, 90% of the Overall score is determined by the Listening and Speaking scores; only 10% is determined by the Reading and Writing scores. For more information select the related file [Grade Level Test Performance Descriptors](#) below.

How is the CELDT administered?

- At grades K-1, the entire test is administered one-on-one



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- At grades 2-8, some parts of the test are group administered, and some are administered individually.
- All testers are district employees who attend special training each year.

Who scores the CELDT tests?

For newly-enrolling students, the tests are hand-scored at the school to determine the correct program placement for the student. The tests are then submitted to the testing company for official scoring. The tests for our continuing EL students are generally scored only by the testing company.

How do parents receive notification of their student's scores on the CELDT?

For newly-enrolling students, the school will send the preliminary hand scores to the parents, along with information on the student's instructional placement. Parents will receive their child's official scores through the mail after we receive them from the testing company. For our continuing English Learners, parents will receive the official scores through the mail as soon as we receive them back from the testing company.

How often does the student take the CELDT?

Once a student has been identified as an English learner using the CELDT, the state requires that they continue to take the test once each year until they meet the district's reclassification criteria. Students are initially tested upon enrollment and annually between August 1st through October 31st.

Can parents "opt" their child out of CELDT testing?

The state law (Ed. Code 313) does not make any allowances for parents to opt their child out of CELDT testing, so parent opt-outs are **not** allowed. Some schools offer Summer CELDT testing to avoid having their child pulled out of class to take the CELDT.

What language(s) should bilingual parents speak to their children at home?

We recommend that you speak the language you speak best. Children need to hear language used proficiently for a variety of purposes. Of course, you are welcome to speak more than one language in your home – children CAN tell the difference between the two languages. We want students who are bilingual (speak and understand two or more languages) and bi-literate (read and write in two or more languages). Therefore, we recommend that you continue using your home language and encourage your children to continue to develop proficiency in both languages. Any support you provide in your home language will actually assist your children in learning English because language skills transfer from one language to another.

Are parents required to pay for their child's schooling?

No. All services provided to students through any program during the regular school day (English Learner program services, regular education program services and special education program services) are provided for free.

What programs does the district provide for English Learners?

All English Learners receive instruction at their English proficiency level that will support them in learning both social and academic English, as well as the information and the skills they



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need to eventually meet grade level content area standards. In some situations, they may be placed in classrooms with students at their same level of English proficiency for part of the day. In some situations, they may be placed in regular classrooms for the entire day, with the teachers providing extra support.

All programs at every grade level include at least 30 minutes per day of level-appropriate English Language Development, as well as appropriate access to the core curriculum. The actual program of instruction a student receives is based on his/her English proficiency level. If you have any questions about the English Learner program services your child is receiving, you may contact their classroom teacher.