



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 English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC) to determine their level of English proficiency.

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 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.

What is the purpose of the ELPAC?

State law (California *Education Code* sections 313 and 60810) and federal laws (Titles I and III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act [ESEA]) require that local educational agencies (LEAs) administer a state test of English language proficiency to (1) newly enrolled students whose primary language is not English, as an initial assessment, and (2) students who are English learners (ELs), as an annual summative assessment (SA). For California's public school students, this test is the ELPAC. The ELPAC is used to assess and monitor EL students' progress toward English language proficiency. EL students continue to take the ELPAC SA annually until they meet their LEA's reclassification criteria.

Which students are required to take the ELPAC?

Students with a primary language other than English, as determined by a home language survey, who have not taken the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) or ELPAC before and who have not been previously classified as an EL, must take the ELPAC Initial Assessment (IA).

Students designated as ELs via the CELDT or ELPAC IA are required to take the ELPAC SA annually until they are reclassified as fluent English proficient.

Do we test students in year one of a two year kindergarten program (frequently referred to as "transitional kindergarten")?

Yes. Students in year one of a two year kindergarten program will take the kindergarten test. All students enrolled in the LEA in year one of a two year kindergarten program, whose primary language is other than English, as determined by a home language survey, must be administered

the ELPAC within 30 calendar days of enrollment or 60 calendar days prior to instruction, but not before July 1.

If a student takes the CELDT Initial Assessment (IA) and is classified as an EL during the ELPAC Summative Assessment (SA) administration window, will the student be required to take the ELPAC Summative Assessment as well?

Yes, if a student takes the CELDT IA and is classified as an EL prior to May 31, 2018, the student will be required to take the ELPAC SA as well.

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.