



ADULT EDUCATION

**MASTER PLAN
for
ENGLISH LEARNERS**

**Pathways Academy Charter School - Adult Education
(Pathways)**

Approved by the Pathways Academy Adult Education Board of Trustees December 9, 2025

Table of Contents

Mission Statement	3
Goals and Vision for EL Master Plan	3
Home Language Survey	4
ELPAC Testing	4
Using Initial and Summative Assessment Results	5
Initial ELPAC Student Score Reports	5
Summative ELPAC Student Score Reports	6
English Language Development Standards	7
English Mainstream Program	7
SDAIE (Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English)	8
English Language Development (ELD) Instruction	8
Instructional Materials to Support the CA ELA and ELD Standards	8
Parent Notification	10
Monitoring of Long Term English Learners	10
Meeting the Needs of Long Term English Learners	11
Instructional Support System	12
Staffing Authorizations	13
Professional Development	14
Reclassification	14
Reclassification Criteria	14
Reclassification Process	15
Monitoring of Reclassified students	15
English Learners in Special Education	15
Role of the IEP Team	15
SpEd: Assessment	16
SpEd: Classification	16
Needs of English Learners	16
Writing Linguistically Appropriate Goals and Benchmarks	17
Special Education EL Reclassification	18
Parent Advisory Committees	19

MISSION STATEMENT

- Our mission is to provide a high-quality education within a fully virtual, flexible environment that empowers students ages 16 and above to earn their high school diploma at no cost.

Through personalized support and strong community partnerships we equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to achieve their academic and career goals.

Pathways will pursue this vision with a philosophy of:

- Hiring, supporting, and continuously training a high-quality faculty and administration, Working cooperatively with staff, students, and client agencies, Tailoring education programs to meet each student's needs, Assessing students on an ongoing basis, and Holding ourselves accountable for producing positive outcomes.

To achieve our objectives, Pathways will:

- Market our school as broadly as possible to attract talented faculty and staff, Create program-improvement teams among our staff, our students, and our client agencies, Develop Student Achievement Plans for each of our students, Employ innovative real-time assessment instruments to measure student needs and progress, and Monitor our success in improving student competencies—awarding achievement and correcting deficiencies.

Goals and Vision for English Learner Master Plan

The ultimate goal of the Pathways English Learner Program is to support each English Learner student as required by law. Pathways' Master Plan for English Learners serves as a standard for consistent program implementation and evaluation of services for English Learners. With a common staff understanding of the goals and procedures, English Learners will receive consistent high-quality services designed to meet their academic and linguistic needs by:

- Providing all students with the opportunity to participate in high quality curricular activities that address academic standards
- Offering programs based on student need and sound educational pedagogy
- Maintaining consistent communication with parents/families
- Providing staff training
- Embracing parent/family involvement in the educational process
- Providing a process for monitoring the effectiveness of the program
- Valuing bi-literacy as a skill that will assist the student in life

Pathways serves students ages 16 and above, including adult students ages 18 and above. For purposes of this EL Master Plan, references to parents and/or guardians including adult students, who have the legal rights as a parent/guardian would be attributed.

Home Language Survey

For all students in K–12, upon first enrollment in a California public school, the Local Education Agency (LEA) uses a standardized procedure to determine a student's primary language. This procedure begins with a home language survey (HLS), which is completed once by the parent or guardian at the time the student is initially enrolled in a California public school. The HLS should not be readministered every year nor readministered if a student enrolls in a new LEA. While cumulative student records are in transit for a student transferring from another California School District, CALPADS shall be used to determine whether a student has a history of being an English Language Learner.

If a student is new to the California Public School System and indicates a primary or native language other than English on the HLS, and Pathways determines that the student is eligible for initial assessment, Pathways shall promptly notify the parent/guardian in writing that Pathways will administer the English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (“ELPAC”) initial assessment, locally produce the official score in accordance with the directions of the test contractor, and notify the parent/guardian in writing of the results of the initial assessment within 30 calendar days after the student’s initial date of California enrollment, or up to 60 calendar days prior to such enrollment but not before July 1, in accordance with applicable law.

ELPAC Testing

LEAs are required to administer a state test of English Language Proficiency (ELP) and develop an English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI) for (1) newly enrolled students whose primary language is not English, as an initial assessment; and (2) students who are English Learners (ELs), as a summative assessment. For California’s public school students, this test is the ELPAC.

The Initial ELPAC has one main purpose:

- To identify students who are ELs or are Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP)

The Summative ELPAC has two main purposes:

- To determine the level of ELP of EL students
- To assess the progress of EL students in acquiring the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English

The Summative ELPAC must be given annually to students identified as ELs until they are reclassified to Fluent English Proficient (RFEP). The Summative ELPAC will be administered during the February 1st through May 31st test window. Pathways will notify parents/guardians of their student’s results within 30 calendar days following receipt of the test results from the test contractor.

Using Initial and Summative Assessment Results

Once tests are scored by the testing agency, individual Student Score Reports (SSRs) are loaded directly to both the parent and student portals of the school’s Student Information System (SIS) from the Test Operation Management System (TOMS). Once scores are received, parents will also be informed of test results via email and/or through US mail. Parents/guardians are notified of results in writing in a language they can understand (or orally, if they are unable to understand written communication). Parents will also be notified in any language of which 15% or more of the student population speaks in common. Additionally, each student’s test results are uploaded to the school’s SIS and recorded on the English Language Master Tracking Spreadsheet. When a student withdraws from Pathways, a list of the student’s test results will be printed from the SIS and included in the student’s requested cume file.

ELPAC results are not used to measure academic achievement. The Initial ELPAC results are used to identify ELs who need to develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. This information, used with other local assessments, assists LEAs when making placement decisions for new students who are identified as ELs. The Initial ELPAC results are also used to identify students who are IFEP and are able to participate in the regular (Core) academic program without further English Language Development support. The Summative ELPAC results are used to see how well ELs are progressing annually toward ELP (English Language Proficiency). This information is used to assist LEAs in the ongoing process of program monitoring and evaluation. The Summative ELPAC results also form one of

four criteria used to determine whether ELs are ready to be classified as RFEP on the basis of the reclassification process developed by the LEA, in accordance with state law.

Initial ELPAC Student Score Reports

The official score for the Initial ELPAC is produced once the LEA has entered and locked in the student's raw scores into the state assessment system. Individual student Initial ELPAC results include an overall scale score, which will indicate which of the three performance levels the student achieved: IFEP, Intermediate EL, and Novice EL.

There will be two composite performance levels produced: Oral Language (Speaking and Listening) and Written Language (Reading and Writing). The three performance levels are well developed, somewhat to moderately developed, and minimally developed.

The Initial ELPAC report includes the following information:

- An Overall performance level and scale score
- A performance level for each composite tested (Oral and Written Language)

Initial ELPAC Performance Level Descriptors are:

- Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP): Students at this level have **well developed** oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. They can use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways that are appropriate to different tasks, purposes, and audiences in a variety of social and academic contexts. They may need occasional linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they may need light support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the upper range of the "Bridging" proficiency level as described in the *2012 California English Language Development Standards, Kindergarten Through Grade 12* (2012 ELD Standards).
- Intermediate English Learner: Students at this level have **somewhat developed to moderately developed** oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. This level captures a broad range of English learners, from those who can use English only to meet immediate communication needs to those who can, at times, use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways in a range of topics and content areas. They may need some degree of linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts (depending on the student, the level of support needed may be moderate, light, or minimal); they may need substantial to moderate support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the entire "Expanding" proficiency level and to the lower range of the "Bridging" proficiency level as described in the 2012 ELD Standards.
- Novice English Learner: Students at this level have **minimally developed** oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) English skills. They tend to rely on learned words and phrases to communicate meaning at a basic level. They need substantial-to-moderate linguistic support to communicate in familiar social and academic contexts; they need substantial linguistic support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the "Emerging" proficiency level as described in the 2012 ELD Standards.

The above Initial ELPAC Performance Level Descriptors are provided by the California Department of Education ("CDE"), and are available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/elpaci1d.asp>. In the event that CDE updates the descriptors, this EL master plan shall incorporate such updates.

Summative ELPAC Student Score Reports

Individual student Summative ELPAC results include an Overall scale score and two composite scale scores which will indicate which of the four performance levels the student achieved. The four performance levels are: well developed (4), moderately developed (3), somewhat developed (2), and minimally developed (1).

Domain level performance will be reported as beginning, intermediate, and well developed on the ELPAC Student Score Reports. The Summative ELPAC report includes the following information:

- An Overall performance level and scale score
- A Performance Level and scale score for each composite tested (Oral Language and Written Language)
- A Performance Level for each domain tested (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing)

Scale score ranges for each of the four performance levels are identified for Overall, Oral Language, and Written Language for all grades tested. These ranges incorporate the performance level cut scores approved by the SBE.

The Summative ELPAC Performance Level Descriptors are:

- Level 4: English Learners at this level have **well developed** oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. They can use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways that are appropriate to different tasks, purposes, and audiences in a variety of social and academic contexts. They may need occasional linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they may need light support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the upper range of the “Bridging” proficiency level as described in the *2012 California English Language Development Standards, Kindergarten Through Grade 12* (CA ELD Standards).
- Level 3: English Learners at this level have **moderately developed** oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. They can sometimes use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways in a range of topics and content areas. They need light-to-minimal linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they need moderate support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the upper range of the “Expanding” proficiency level through the lower range of the “Bridging” proficiency level as described in the CA ELD Standards.
- Level 2: English Learners at this level have **somewhat developed** oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. They can use English to meet immediate communication needs but often are not able to use English to learn and communicate on topics and content areas. They need moderate-to-light linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they need substantial-to-moderate support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the low- to mid-range of the “Expanding” proficiency level as described in the CA ELD Standards.
- Level 1: English Learners at this level have **minimally developed** oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) English skills. They tend to rely on learned words and phrases to communicate meaning at a basic level. They need substantial-to-moderate linguistic support to communicate in familiar social and academic contexts; they need substantial linguistic support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the “Emerging” proficiency level as described in the CA ELD Standards.

The above Summative ELPAC Performance Level Descriptors are provided by the California Department of Education ("CDE"), and are available at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/elpacgpld.asp>. In the event that CDE updates the descriptors, this EL master plan shall incorporate such updates.

English Language Development (ELD) Standards

The state-adopted ELD Standards establish a framework for teachers to follow as they facilitate students' development of the skills necessary to meet grade-level standards in English Language Arts and the other Core content areas. The standards describe what students should know and be able to do at each of the five levels of English proficiency. Each ELD standard is tied to one or more of the grade level English Language Arts Standards and serves as a measure for determining a student's progress toward meeting the English Language Arts Standards. When students attain the early advanced proficiency level, they are expected to be reclassified and meet the same rigorous grade-level standards as native English speakers are expected to master.

Charter schools enrolling English Learners have a dual obligation, as do all LEAs, to provide a program for EL students designed to overcome language barriers and provide access to the core curriculum. The CDE recognizes that both services, including classified ELD, must be an integral part of a comprehensive program for every English Learner. The CDE has informed administrators that charter schools are required to provide English learner instructional services that meet this dual obligation, and other services determined necessary by the charter school, immediately.

Link to ELD Standards: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/documents/eldstndspublication14.pdf>

English Language Mainstream Program

English Learners in Pathways Academy participate in an English Language Mainstream Program. This instructional program is designed to promote the acquisition of high levels of English language proficiency, as well as access to the core curriculum. In the mainstream English program, English is the language of instruction for all subjects with no primary language support. Students in an English Language Mainstream Program will be supported by their primary instructor through the use of SDAIE strategies. Students may also be concurrently enrolled in an ELD support class. English Learners in the English Language Mainstream Program will receive ELD instruction until they are reclassified as English proficient. In the English Language Mainstream Program of PACSAE:

- Core instruction in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Science is taught in English using charter approved curriculum and SDAIE methodology
- English Language Learners receive ELD instruction which addresses the ELD standards in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
- Teachers working with EL students will be appropriately authorized, i.e. CLAD or equivalent.

SDAIE (Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English)

SDAIE is instruction in a subject area, delivered in English, that is specially designed to meet the needs of limited-English-proficient pupils. Academic instruction through English is modified to meet the student's level of language proficiency. Teachers use specialized strategies that enable students to understand, participate in and access the core curriculum. SDAIE is an instructional methodology, not a program. (EC 44253.2[b]).

SDAIE Strategies can include but are not limited to:

- Speak slowly and use repetition
- Visuals and realia

- Activate prior knowledge
- Focus on the meaning
- Graphic organizer/Charts
- Preview-Review
- Gestures and facial expressions
- Self-selected reading
- Scaffolding (visual content, graphic organizers)
- Consistent and Immediate Feedback
- Summarizing and Re-Teaching
- Reciprocal Teaching

English Language Development (ELD) Instruction

English Learners at Pathways participate in an instructional program that supports their acquisition of informal English and teaches them the patterns of formal academic English. The instruction is designed to provide for student experiences with English that are understandable and meaningful, enable the students to communicate with peers and adults, and thereby participate fully in the academic program. Pathways will create a personalized pathway of ELD instruction to build skills in English Language Arts (ELA). In addition to the ELPAC, all Pathways students will take a diagnostic assessment through IXL at the beginning of their enrollment. The results of both of these assessments will be used to develop an Individual Learner Plan. English Learners will benefit from a targeted approach to building the specific skills that they need. Additionally, students may receive tutoring support services.

ELA/Literacy and ELD curricula should be well designed, comprehensive, and integrated.

The ability to read, write, and communicate with competence and confidence in English across a range of personal and academic contexts expands students' opportunities for career and college success, full and wise participation in a democratic society and global economy, and achievement of their personal aspirations. Moreover, skill in literacy and language provides individuals with access to extraordinary and powerful literature that widens perspectives, illuminates the human experience, and deepens understandings of self and others.

The CA ELD Standards are aligned to the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy as they amplify (magnify and make clear) areas of English language development that are crucial for academic learning. The standards emphasize language learning as a social process and language itself as a complex and dynamic meaning-making resource. They promote the notion of supporting English Learners to develop awareness that different languages and variations of English exist and that their home languages and cultures are valuable resources in their own right and useful for building proficiency in English.

Key Themes of ELA/Literacy and ELD Instruction

Instruction focuses on...

Meaning Making

Meaning making is at the heart of ELA/literacy and ELD instruction. It is the central purpose for interacting with text, producing text, engaging in research, participating in discussion, and giving presentations. It is the reason for learning the foundational skills and for expanding language. Meaning

making includes literal understanding but is not confined to it at any grade or with any student. Inference making and critical reading, writing, and listening are given substantial and explicit attention in every discipline. Among the contributors to meaning making are language, knowledge, motivation, and in the case of reading and writing, the ability to recognize printed words and use the alphabetic code to express ideas.

Language Development

Language is the cornerstone of literacy and learning. It is with and through language that students learn, think, and express information, ideas, perspectives, and questions. The strands of the CA CCSS for ELA/ Literacy—Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language—all have language at the core, as do the parts of the CA ELD Standards—Interacting in Meaningful Ways, Understanding How English Works, and Using English Purposefully. Students enrich their language as they read, write, speak, and listen and as they interact with one another and learn about language. The foundational skills provide access to written language.

Effective Expression

Each strand of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and each part of the CA ELD Standards includes attention to effective expression. Students learn to examine the author’s craft as they read, analyzing how authors use language, text structure, and images to convey information, influence their readers, and evoke responses. Students learn to effectively express themselves as writers, discussion partners, and presenters, and they use digital media and visual displays to enhance their expression. They gain command over the conventions of written and spoken English, and they learn to communicate in ways appropriate for the context and task.

Content Knowledge

Content knowledge is a powerful contributor to comprehension of text. It also undergirds the ability to write effective opinions/arguments, narratives, and explanatory/informational text; engage in meaningful discussions; and present ideas and information to others. It contributes significantly to language development, and it is fundamental to learning about how English works. Both sets of standards ensure that students can learn from informational texts and can share their knowledge as writers and speakers. An organized independent reading program contributes to knowledge. Content knowledge has a powerful reciprocal relationship with the development of literacy and language.

Foundational Skills

Acquisition of the foundational skills enables students to independently read and use written language to learn about the world and themselves; experience extraordinary and diverse works of literary fiction and nonfiction; and share their knowledge, ideas, stories, and perspectives with others. Students who know how to decode and develop automaticity with an increasing number of words are best positioned to make significant strides in meaning making, language development, effective expression, and content knowledge. At the same time, attention to those themes provides the very reason for learning about the alphabetic code and propels progress in the foundational skills.

*(See the Resource Guide to the Foundational Skills at
www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/cf/documents/foundskillswhitepaper.pdf.)*

Parent Notification of Programs

All parents of English Learners, regardless of proficiency, must be notified at initial enrollment and annually, in writing, of program placement of their children and must also be provided with a description of

our program, as well as further information as required by applicable law. The information must be provided in a language the parents understand within 30 days of the beginning of the school year.

Monitoring of Long Term English Learners

Long-term English Learners (LTEL) are defined as students who are in grades 6 to 12, have been enrolled in U.S. schools for more than six years, have remained at the same level of English language proficiency for two or more consecutive prior years or regressed to a lower proficiency level, and have scored far below basic or below basic on the prior year's CAASPP ELA assessment.

ELs with little or no English proficiency need more time than native-English speakers to meet grade-level benchmarks in English and state mandated testing targets. Schools must monitor student progress to assure that additional and appropriate learning opportunities are provided in English language development and in reading, writing and other academic content areas in order to close the achievement gap.

Benchmark assessments, course grades, and the CAASPP assessments, along with the number of years a student has been classified as an EL student are used to determine if a student is making the appropriate movement toward becoming RFEP.

If, despite the implementation of school wide interventions and supports, a student is still not making "adequate progress", the school will hold a Student Support Team meeting to discuss the lack of progress. Further evaluation and intervention will be planned by the SST team to support students who are not meeting interim benchmarks. Interventions will be noted and filed on the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet, in their cumulative folder and/or in a collaborative Google document. Additionally, parents will be notified annually if their student is at risk for becoming a LTEL or has been classified as a LTEL.

Meeting the Needs of Long Term English Learners

The National Education Association's Publication: Meeting the Unique Needs of Long Term English Language Learners, A Guide for Educators provides valuable research-based information and best practices to guide schools and LEAs in supporting students at risk for becoming Long Term English Learners (LTEL).

Seven Basic Principles for Meeting the Needs of Middle and High School Long Term English Language Learners

Seven basic principles lie at the heart of successfully educating middle and high school Long Term English Language Learners:

- Urgency: Focus urgently on accelerating LTEL progress towards attaining English proficiency and closing academic gaps.
- Distinct needs: Recognize that the needs of LTELs are distinct and cannot adequately be addressed within a "struggling reader" paradigm or a generic "English Language Learner" approach, but require an explicit LTEL approach.
- Language, literacy, and academics: Provide LTELs with language development, literacy development, and a program that addresses the academic gaps they have accrued.
- Home language: Affirm the crucial role of home language in a student's life and learning, and provide home language development whenever possible.
- Three R's: rigor, relevance, and relationships: Provide LTELs with rigorous and relevant curriculum and relationships with supportive adults (along with the supports to succeed).

- Integration: End the ESL ghetto, cease the sink-or-swim approach, and provide maximum integration without sacrificing access to LTEL supports.
- Active engagement: Invite, support, and insist that LTELs become active participants in their own education.

Staffing Authorizations

Under the management of the Executive Director or designee, Pathways takes an active role in the recruitment and staffing of authorized personnel for all English Learner programs and makes it a priority to hire authorized teachers. Teachers providing instruction in a Mainstream English Program shall be authorized to provide appropriate core content and ELD instruction. This is achieved via a CLAD Certificate or equivalent authorization.

Professional Development

Pathways provides ongoing professional development opportunities to all teachers and staff working with English Learners. The goal of this training is to help educators acquire specific skills needed to work with English Learners in the areas of ELD instruction, comprehensible core content instruction, program designs, curriculum expectations, and processes and services for English Learners. Training should also focus on multiculturalism and up-to-date research and pedagogy for English Learners to receive equitable and accessible support and opportunities to achieve and reach their goals.

Staff development opportunities may cover, but are not limited to the following:

- ELD Standards
- ELPAC assessment and identification levels
- ELD strategies and instruction
- SDAIE strategies and instruction
- Differentiated instruction
- EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet and EL Cumulative file training
- Shared Best Practices

To ensure that all staff working with EL students are appropriately trained, training participation and completion is documented.

Reclassification

California law requires that each English Learner who has demonstrated English Language Proficiency comparable to that of the average native English speaker and who can participate effectively in a curriculum designed for pupils of the same age whose native language is English be Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP). Pathways recognizes the importance and irreversibility of this item and has established the following criteria and process to fully address this obligation.

Once a student has demonstrated that he/she is ready to participate fully in all English instruction without special support services, the student is ready for reclassification.

Reclassification Criteria

Pathways uses the following criteria to reclassify EL students to RFEP status:

- Summative ELPAC Overall Score of 4; or Alternate Summative ELPAC Overall Score of 3

- Summative ELPAC: Minimum Oral Language Score of 4, Minimum Written Language Score of 3
- Teacher Evaluation, including, but not limited to, a review of the pupil's curriculum mastery
- Parent Opinion and Consultation
- Comparison of Basic Skills, using Smarter Balanced and/or Local Assessments, to determine student readiness for reclassification

Reclassification Process

Reclassification is the culmination of an EL student's participation in the program for English Learners and is conducted each year when ELPAC score reports are received by the charter.

Based on the above reclassification criteria, if a student is deemed to qualify for reclassification, a letter will be drafted by the administration. The letter will include all data pertinent to the reclassification. Once the letter has been signed by the administration and the parents of the student, the reclassification will take place. The language acquisition status of the student will be updated in the student information, on the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet and ultimately in the state reporting system (CALPADS). Additionally, all teachers associated with the student will be informed of the reclassification.

Pathways may maintain documentation of the reclassification process in a student's permanent record as applicable, such as information on language and academic performance assessments, participants in the reclassification process, and any decisions regarding reclassification.

Monitoring of Reclassified Students

After students have exited an EL program, LEAs must monitor the academic progress of former EL students for at least four years to ensure that:

- The students have not been prematurely exited;
- Any academic deficit they incurred as a result of participation in the EL program have been remedied; and
- The students are meaningfully participating in the standard instructional program comparable to their never-EL peers.

The school's Administrator or Admin Designee supervises the process of monitoring reclassified students. Pathways will use the Smarter Balanced assessment, local multiple measure scores (i.e., IXL, etc.), and teacher assessments and observations to semi-annually monitor the progress of RFEP students for a period no less than four (4) years after reclassification. Student performance shall be reviewed at each progress reporting period. Those students found to be regressing in their academic performance will be referred to receive an academic intervention in the specific area of need. This monitoring of RFEP students is recorded on the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet.

English Learners in Special Education

All ELs with disabilities participate in the state's ELP assessment. ELs with disabilities may participate in the state ELP assessment in the following ways, as determined by the IEP team:

- In the regular ELPAC without universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations
- In the regular ELPAC with universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations determined by the IEP team or Section 504 team
- In the alternate ELPAC aligned with the state's ELD standards, if the IEP team determines that the student is unable to participate in the regular ELP assessment with or without universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations. The Alternate ELPAC assessment is intended only

for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose IEP team has decided that the student should take alternate assessment.

Role of the IEP Team

The IEP team is an essential component in establishing the appropriate academic and functional goals, determining the specifically designed instructional program to meet the unique needs of all ELs with disabilities, and making decisions about how students can participate in the state ELP assessment. In accordance with the new ED guidance, the IEP team is responsible for:

- Making decisions about the content of a student's IEP, including whether a student must take a regular state assessment (in this case, the ELPAC assessment), with or without appropriate universal tools, designated supports and/or accommodations, or an alternate assessment in lieu of the regular ELPAC assessment (ED, July 2014, FAQ #4).
- Developing an IEP for each student with a disability, including each EL with a disability, at an IEP team meeting, which includes school officials and the child's parents/guardians. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (34 CFR Section 300.321(a)) specifies the participants to be included on each child's IEP team. It is essential that IEP teams for ELs with disabilities include persons with expertise in English language acquisition and other professionals, such as speech-language pathologists, who understand how to differentiate between English proficiency development and a disability (ED, July 2014, FAQ #5).
- Ensuring that ELs' parents or guardians understand and are able to meaningfully participate in IEP team meetings at which the child's participation in the ELPAC is discussed. If a parent whose primary language is other than English is participating in IEP meetings, the IDEA regulations require each public agency to take whatever action necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings of the IEP team meeting, including arranging for an interpreter (34 CFR Section 300.322[e]). When parents themselves are ELs, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 also requires that the LEA effectively communicate with parents in a manner and form they can understand, such as by providing free interpretation and/or translation services (ED, July 2014, FAQ #6).
- Ensuring that all ELs, including those with disabilities, participate in the annual state ELPAC assessment, with or without universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations or take the Alternate ELPAC, if necessary (ESSA Section 1119[b][7] and IDEA Section 612[a][16][A]). An IEP team cannot determine that a particular EL with a disability should not participate in the annual state ELP assessment (ED, July 2014, FAQ #7).

IEP teams will ensure that each English Learner receives appropriate services to develop English proficiency and have equitable access to the full curriculum. Each English Learner's IEP shall include linguistically appropriate goals and objectives based on the student's level of English proficiency and based on the ELD standards. Such goals and objectives will fully address ELD and core content instruction. Each IEP shall also clearly delineate the person(s) and/or programs responsible for providing each instructional service.

SpEd: Classification

Students who are classified as English Learners MUST have their ELD needs addressed as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students who have been reclassified as Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) or who were initially identified as Initially Fluent English Proficient (IFEP) are *not* considered English Learners for the purpose of the IEP. Their progress is still monitored, but ELD does not need to be addressed on the IEP.

Needs of English Learners

The needs of English Learners are addressed in several places on the IEP:

Student Information:

- Is the student an English Learner?
- What is the student's primary language?
- Proficiency Level and Date: Overall ELPAC proficiency level and scaled score from most recent annual assessment (This information can be obtained from the English Learner/Assessment Lead, the SIS, the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet or from the English Learner folder that is part of the student's cumulative file)
- Is an interpreter required? (*for the parents*) Indicate the language for the interpreter.

Present Levels:

- Most recent ELPAC scores should be listed for each domain area (list performance level as well as scaled score)
- *Academic Skills:* In addition to the academic data usually included, it should be indicated how the student's English language development needs, if any, will be addressed in each academic area.
- *Communication:* Information on the student's language development should be specified in this section of the IEP, including the student's primary language and how the student's language development (expressive and receptive) relates to his/her ability to communicate with others and its impact on his/her school performance.

Special Factors:

- Testing Accommodations/Modifications: If the student needs the same accommodations or modifications as are being used on the CAASPP tests, the box next to "Other statewide/charter assessments" will be checked and "Same as Above" for the listed accommodation/modification will be written.

Annual Goals:

- Each English Learner's IEP shall include linguistically appropriate goals and objectives based on the student's level of English proficiency and based on the ELD standards. Such goals and objectives will fully address ELD and core content instruction. Each IEP shall also clearly delineate the person(s) and/or programs responsible for providing each instructional service.

Services:

- If the student requires any supplemental aids or services or any special education services to enable the student to benefit from their ELD services or setting, they will be listed in the IEP. If the IEP team determines that the student's program should be modified from that of other ELD students in order to meet the student's unique educational needs, that modification should be listed in the IEP.

Writing Linguistically Appropriate Goals and Benchmarks-

- Based on the most recent ELPAC results and other information on the Present Levels page, identify the "Areas of Need" that the IEP goals will address.
- In the *Baseline* section, describe what the student is currently able to do in the skill area of need and indicate the ELPAC proficiency level in parenthesis.

- For example: Area of Need: Writing, *Baseline*: Student is able to write simple sentences with some errors in grammar and syntax (ELPAC Writing - Level 1)
- Write (or modify from a goal bank selection) an annual goal to ensure that it is linguistically appropriate and includes the words “in English.”
 - For example: By (date), following teacher-led prewriting activities, (*student name*) will compose a single paragraph in English including a topic sentence, three supporting sentences and a concluding paragraph with ___% accuracy in ___ of ___ trials as measured by student work samples.

Note: It is best practice to insert the phrase “in English” to emphasize the language component of the goal.

- Check the “Linguistically Appropriate” box to indicate the goal is linguistically appropriate to meet the student’s English language development needs.

Special Education EL Reclassification

In some cases, an IEP team may find that it is the disability that interferes with a student’s ability to demonstrate English fluency (e.g., due to Communication Disorders and/or Cognitive Disabilities). In these cases, the IEP team assesses student progress and considers reclassification of the student to RFEP status. Ideally, this should be done as early as possible; as soon as one to two summative test administrations, or as soon as there is reasonable evidence that it is a student’s disability that is prohibiting English Language Acquisition.

The Executive Director or designee and/or Case Manager should include the rationale for reclassification.

Avoid:

- Focusing on family history. Instead, focus on assessment results and the impact of the disability.
- Including parents’ wishes for reclassification or opinion as to the validity of ELPAC scores or current English learner status. Instead, focus on the needs of the student.
- Basing recommendation for changing EL status on the belief of the parent(s) or team members that the EL status or Home Language Survey was erroneous to begin with and therefore the student should never have been classified as EL. This is a matter outside of the scope of the IEP team and cannot be the basis for the team’s recommendation for reclassification.