Dear LEA CAASPP Coordinator or LEA ELPAC Coordinator:

The California Department of Education (CDE) provided an update in the Assessment Spotlight distributed on March 20, 2020. If your school is closed due to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), you should not worry about any statewide testing this school year.

The Initial ELPAC assessment will not be suspended. However, no testing is expected while schools are shut down. Once schools return, the expectation will be that students identified as requiring the Initial ELPAC will be tested. Senate Bill 117 extended the timeline to conduct the Initial ELPAC by 45 days (75 days total). The expectation is that LEAs will continue to assess new students whose primary language is not English when they return this year or next school year.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) is working with the CDE to determine the best way to handle completed and partially completed assessments. ETS will contact coordinators as those decisions are made.

Access to the Smarter Balanced Digital Library is still available for all teachers who have accounts. The Digital Library offers free lesson plans for teachers in multiple subjects and at all grade levels. The CAASPP and ELPAC practice and training tests are still available. The Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments will remain open to be used upon the return of students and teachers to the classroom.

Please let us know if ETS can assist your LEA in any way as you move forward with distance learning. Questions regarding the suspension of 2019–2020 CAASPP or ELPAC administration should be directed to the California Technical Assistance Center, by phone at 800-955-2954 or by email at caltac@ets.org.

Sincerely,

Jackie Strasz
Senior Director, CAASPP/ELPAC Programs
Educational Testing Service