ELPAC Monthly Communication

With the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) still a threat, the health and safety of students and staff are the highest priority. The California Department of Education (CDE) and Educational Testing Service (ETS) are currently developing suggested guidelines to be released later this month that will be offered to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools about how to safely administer upcoming required assessments. In the meantime, it is recommended that all students and staff always wear an appropriate mask during testing. LEAs should continue to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the rules and regulations of the CDE; state, county, or city agencies; or the LEA.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines for July 2020

Please mark your calendars!

July 1, 2020

2020–2021 Initial ELPAC Window Opens

The 2020–2021 Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) administration opened on July 1, 2020. LEA ELPAC coordinators should ensure appropriate users (i.e. site ELPAC coordinators and test examiners) are added for the 2020–2021 administration year. For step-by-step guidance, refer to the How to Add Users One-By-One in ELPAC TOMS and How to Add Users by Batch File Upload in TOMS videos.

The Local Scoring Tool is no longer available. Any new student who enrolls in your LEA as of June 26, 2020, whose primary language is not English and who is eligible to take the Initial ELPAC, should be tested in the 2020–2021 administration year beginning on July 1, 2020. Additionally, the Initial ELPAC should be administered to students who were eligible for the assessment in 2019–2020, but were not tested due to COVID-19, when they return to school in 2020–2021.

LEAs planning to administer the paper-pencil Initial ELPAC to students from July 1 through August 19, 2020, should take into consideration and follow the steps outlined in the 2020-2021 Initial ELPAC: Administration from July 1 through August 19 email sent on June 25, 2020.
Return Completed K–2 Summative ELPAC Answer Books for Scoring

LEAs should continue to ship any completed kindergarten through grade two (K–2) Answer Books back to Educational Testing Service. LEAs that returned K–2 Answer Books by June 12, 2020, will receive Student Score Reports (SSRs) in mid-August for students who completed all four domains. LEAs that returned Answer Books after June 12, 2020, will receive SSRs in late fall.

Please review and follow the 2019–20 Summative ELPAC Packing and Return Instructions. LEAs can download and complete the ELPAC School/Group List to serve as a way to organize the return of Answer Books. Completed scorable materials must be returned in white return cartons to ensure materials will be routed to the correct location. LEAs can reach out to the California Technical Assistance Center (CalTAC), by phone at 800-955-2954 or by email at caltac@ets.org, to request additional white return cartons. At this time, LEAs should hold on to partially completed and unused materials, including Pre-ID labels, to support the optional fall administration, as described on the Implications of COVID-19 and the Suspension of Testing web page.

July 23, 2020

New Coordinator Webinar

This webinar, hosted by the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE), provides information about upcoming coordinator checklist tasks, assessment results, and a “Question and Answer” session with experienced coordinators. It will take place on July 23, 2020, from 3 to 4 p.m. LEA CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators who have been in their role for less than 12 months or want a refresher on coordinator responsibilities may want to attend. Registration is now available. Visit the 2020–2021 Training Opportunities web page to view additional upcoming training opportunities.

August 1, 2020

Initial ELPAC Training and Certification Complete

The CDE-sponsored statewide computer-based Initial ELPAC Administration and Scoring Trainings have been cancelled. LEA ELPAC coordinators and other test examiners can fulfill their training requirements by accessing the ELPAC Administration and Scoring Moodle Training Site. Trainers must be certified by August 1, 2020. More information can be found on the Computer-based Initial ELPAC Administration and Scoring Trainings web page. LEA ELPAC coordinators can also access the Initial ELPAC Training Frequently Asked Questions in Moodle and the 2020–2021 Online Initial ELPAC Test Administration Manual to prepare for the upcoming administration.

Every LEA—whether the LEA has enrolled English learners or not—must complete CDE state-sponsored or regional Initial ELPAC Administration and Scoring Trainings, or enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with a neighboring LEA that has agreed to train test examiners or administer the Initial ELPAC. LEAs should submit MOUs to elpac@scoe.net.

August 3, 2020

Initial ELPAC Training Question and Answer Webinar

The CDE-sponsored statewide computer-based Initial ELPAC Administration and Scoring Make-up Trainings scheduled for August 2020 have been cancelled. To
support new coordinators or trainers who would typically attend these make-up trainings, the CDE and SCOE will be hosting a “Question and Answer” webinar on August 3, 2020, to train and support new staff responsible for administering the Initial ELPAC. More information coming soon.

**August 14, 2020**

**Update CALPADS**

It is important to ensure that each newly enrolled student whose primary language is a language other than English has a Statewide Student Identifier (SSID) before being administered the computer-based Initial ELPAC or before entering scores for the paper-pencil tests into the Data Entry Interface. LEAs should ensure students’ English Language Acquisition Status (ELAS) of “To Be Determined,” or “TBD,” is submitted to the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) prior to the August 20, 2020, window opening. For students who were administered the paper-pencil tests, LEAs should send a cumulative list of SSIDs to ETS by emailing the **2020–2021 Initial ELPAC PPT SSID Template** to caloutreach@ets.org by **August 14, 2020**.

**August 19 and August 26, 2020**

**Assessment and Accountability Information Meetings**

Registration is now open for CAASPP and ELPAC coordinators for the 2020 Assessment and Accountability Information Meetings, hosted by the CDE. These meetings will provide coordinators with the latest information and updates on California’s assessment system. This year these meetings will be presented virtually. Both meetings will be offered as a live webcast and one of the meetings will be archived for later viewing.

To register for one of the meetings or webcasts, visit the CDE **Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting** registration web page. Materials will be available to print or download from the **Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting** page. If you have any questions about the event, please contact the Sacramento County Office of Education by email at caaspp@coe.net.

**Ongoing Reminders!**

**2020–2021 Initial ELPAC Supplemental Ordering Window**

LEA ELPAC coordinators can now order supplemental materials, which will be at the LEA level. The LEA ELPAC coordinator can use **TOMS** to place supplemental orders. Currently, shipments of ordered materials are contingent on closures caused by the shelter-in-place order due to COVID-19.

**Alternate ELPAC Operational Field Test**

The mandatory administration of the Alternate ELPAC operational field test will be administered to all eligible students in January and February 2021. As the new school year approaches, it is essential for individualized education program (IEP) teams to begin preparations well in advance for this operational field test. The Alternate ELPAC operational field test must be administered to **all** kindergarten through grade twelve students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who have an ELAS of English learner and have been determined eligible to take alternate assessments by an IEP team.
The Alternate ELPAC will replace locally determined alternate assessments for the Summative ELPAC. The Alternate ELPAC will also provide, for the first time, a consistent, standardized measurement of English language proficiency across the state for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. SCOE is recruiting LEAs that are willing to test students with the most significant cognitive disabilities whose primary language is English only, or EO, with the Alternate ELPAC. If you have any questions about the Alternate ELPAC operational field test, please contact Salina Donek, Alternate ELPAC field test coordinator, at SCOE by phone at 916-228-3301 or by email at elpac@scoe.net.

**Educator Opportunities for the ELPAC and Alternate ELPAC**

New opportunities for the ELPAC and Alternate ELPAC are available on the [ELPAC and Alternate ELPAC Opportunities to Get Involved](#) web page. Simply [create an account](#) in the Educator Opportunities Database. Those who already have an account can go directly to the [Educator Opportunities Portal](#). For questions about how to get involved in these educator opportunities, please contact the CAASPP and ELPAC Project Team, by phone at 916-228-2682 or by email at edopportunities@scoe.net.

**Support for New LEA ELPAC Coordinators**

Are you new to the role of LEA ELPAC coordinator? The CDE offers a variety of trainings throughout the year to support you in this new role. Visit the [2020–2021 Training Opportunities](#) web page and use the filtering options to display events that are most relevant to you. We encourage you to attend the upcoming training on July 23, 2020!

**Available Now!**

**Manuals, Instructions, and Quick Reference Guides**

- Initial ELPAC Directions for Administration (DFAs) available for secure download in the [Test Operations Management System (TOMS)](#)
- [California Assessment Timeline](#) web document
- [2020–2021 Online Initial ELPAC Test Administration Manual](#) web document
- [LEA ELPAC Coordinator Checklist](#) web document
- [Initial ELPAC Parent and Guardian Notification Letter Template](#)
- [ELPAC Summative Assessment Parent/Guardian Score Report Letter Template](#)
- [ELPAC Domain Information Sheets—Initial ELPAC](#) web page
  - Information about task types, per domain, with a brief description of each task and the grade level(s) at which the task types are administered
- [Parent Guide to Understanding the ELPAC](#) web document
  - Designed for parents and guardians to address basic questions, such as who takes the assessment, why, when, and how

**Videos**
• The Initial ELPAC and the CALPADS System webcast
  o This webinar was created to help LEA ELPAC and CALPADS coordinators better understand the start-to-finish process of language designation. The webinar also covered how to navigate the language fields of CALPADS, resulting in more timely and accurate lists of students who need to take the ELPAC.

  **Website Updates**

  • [Initial ELPAC Estimated Testing Times](#) web page
  • [ELPAC Fee-based Services: Printing Materials](#) web page
  • [Implications of COVID-19 and the Suspension of Testing](#) web page
  • [2020–2021 Planned System Downtime](#) web page

  **Access to Previous ELPAC Monthly Communications**

Previous ELPAC Monthly Communications, as well as other email communications, can be found on the [ELPAC Coordinator Emails](#) web page.

General questions about the ELPAC should be directed to CalTAC, by phone at 800-955-2954 or by email at caltac@ets.org.

Sincerely,

California Technical Assistance Center
Educational Testing Service
Phone: 800-955-2954
Email: caltac@ets.org
Website: [https://www.elpac.org/](https://www.elpac.org/)