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# ENGLISH LEARNER UPDATES NEWSLETTER: COVID-19 EDITION

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Information and Updates from the California Department of Education (CDE) English Learner Support Division

Issue 3, April 3, 2020

## *New Weekly Format*

This is the first of a **special series of COVID-19 English Learner (EL) Updates Newsletters focusing on school closures and services for English learners**. This newsletter will be disseminated **weekly** to keep you informed of new resources and guidance for supporting the English learners you serve.

### *This Issue Includes:*

- **English Language Development (ELD):** ELD requirements during school closures
- **Assessments**
- **Observation Protocol for Teachers of English Learners:** Updates on the field test and study
- **EL Federal Program Monitoring Reviews:** Updated information for the 2019–20 cycle
- **Funding:** Information on funding flexibility
- **Coming Soon:** Updated guidance that is being developed now
- **Resources:** Links to resources on the CDE COVID-19 web page relevant to English learners

## ELD Requirements

### *ELD Requirements During COVID-19 School Closures*

English learners must continue to receive designated and integrated English Language Development (ELD) as part of their educational curriculum. Local educational agencies (LEAs) have the flexibility to determine how services will be provided to English learners. The LEA can determine where, when, and what the students receive in order to continue to make progress toward English language proficiency and meet grade level academic achievement.

Although there are no minimum number of minutes required, ELD is a required course of study for English learners.

## Assessments

### *ELPAC*

**Summative ELPAC:** Summative ELPAC testing has been suspended for the rest of the 2020–21 school year. Districts that have already completed testing for a portion of the EL population should submit testing materials to be scored. Test results will be provided for students who completed all four domains.

**Initial ELPAC:** Senate Bill 117 provides for a 45-day extension to the 30-day window to administer the 2019–2020 Initial ELPAC. This extension is only for the current instructional year and does not carry forward beyond June 30, 2020.

July 1, 2020 is the opening of the 2020–2021 administration window for the Initial ELPAC. Initial ELPAC training for the 2020–21 school year will be made available through the Moodle Training Site. More information will be provided in the near future.

## OPTEL

### *OPTEL Field Test and Study Update*

The OPTEL field test and study has been temporarily suspended due to school closures. Meanwhile, completed OPTEL documents should be submitted for processing. The CDE and WestEd will provide additional information as it becomes available.

## EL FPM Reviews

### *Updated information for the 2019–20 Review Cycle*

All EL FPM reviews will be conducted online for the rest of the 2019–20 cycle. If an LEA needs to adjust the dates of their review due to district closures and staff availability, districts are advised to contact the FPM office at [FPMOFFICE@cde.ca.gov](mailto:FPMOFFICE@cde.ca.gov) or their Regional Team Lead listed in the California Monitoring Tool to discuss any concerns regarding the review.

## Funding

### *Funding Flexibility*

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, Language Acquisition programs, SEC. 3115. [20 U.S.C. 6825] SUBGRANTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITIES. Sections (d) and (e) provide a list of the general categories for allowable supplemental activities for English learners and immigrant students respectively.

Both Title II and Title IV funds can be transferred to Title III for more flexibility in providing services to teachers and students. Title I funds may also be used to provide language learning opportunities for English learners.

The link to the Title III section of ESSA can be found on the [US Department of Education Title III Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students web page](#).

## Coming Soon

### *Accountability Guidance*

The CDE is currently working on guidance related to California's accountability system, including the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), the California School Dashboard, and differentiated assistance. When this guidance is available it will be released through the Superintendent's weekly COVID-19 guidance.

Please visit the [CDE Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) web page](#) for the latest information and resources regarding COVID-19 and California's response.

### *Updated State Seal of Biliteracy (SSB) Criteria for 2019–20*

The CDE continues to award the SSB during the 2019–2020 school year and the process for ordering insignias has not changed. Interim frequently asked questions are posted to the [CDE SSB web page](#). Additional guidance on the criteria in light of school closures will be posted soon.

## COVID-19 Resources and Information

### *Links to Resources Relevant to English Learners on the CDE COVID-19 Web Page*

#### [New COVID-19 Guidance for K–12 Schools](#)

Links on this web page include resources for distance learning, school meals, special education guidance, and child care and student supervision.

#### [Getting Internet Access: Available Plans](#)

This web page provides a list of internet providers, including those offering free internet, with links to their web pages for more information.

#### [Resources that Support Distance Learning](#)

As part of the COVID-19 guidance for K–12 schools, this web page provides specific links to ELD resources, games, and activities. This page also includes a link to multilingual resources.

**For questions regarding English learner programs and services, please contact the Language Policy and Leadership Office by email at [LPLO@CDE.ca.gov](mailto:LPLO@CDE.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-319-0247. You may also visit the [CDE EL web page](#).**

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