

## Dual Immersion Program

### Why do parents select a Dual Language Immersion Program?

- To stimulate their child’s cognitive, social, and linguistic development.
- To prepare their children with advantages to compete for future careers.
- To provide their children with the skills needed to live and work in a multicultural global community.

Our nation can only grow stronger if all our children grow up learning two languages. I can assure you when they enter the workforce in several years, we will regret the inability of our children to speak two languages. Our global economy demands it; our children deserve it. (Richard W. Riley, Former U.S. Secretary of Education)

### What does a Dual Language Immersion Program Offer?

This unique program offers English and Spanish speaking students the opportunity to learn and excel in two languages, English and Spanish. Students in a Dual Language Immersion Program are taught in the

90/10 model. Students in kindergarten and first grade receive 90% of their instruction in Spanish and 10% in English. Each subsequent year, English is gradually increased into the program. By the 5th and 6th grade, instructional time will be 50% in English and 50% in Spanish. Students at this time will develop fluency in both languages.

Research indicates that a Dual Language Immersion Program is the most effective model to educate limited English Proficient students. In addition, it offers a second language for English speaking students without risk to their academic achievements or English proficiency.

### Instructional Time

Grade	Spanish	English
K-1	90%	10%
2	80%	20%
3	70%	30%
4	60%	40%
5-6	50%	50%



Studies show that the human brain is more open to linguistic development during early education years. Children who learn a language before the onset of adolescence are more likely to develop native-like pronunciation. (Strozer)



# The English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)

The ELPAC is the test that is used to measure how well students in kindergarten through twelfth grade understand English when it is not their primary language. The ELPAC is taking the place of the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). Information from the ELPAC helps your child's teacher provide support in the right areas.



## The ELPAC has two parts:

	Initial Assessment	Summative Assessment
<b>Who</b>	<p>Students will take the Initial Assessment if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the student has a primary language other than English,</li> <li>the student has not taken the CELDT or ELPAC before, and</li> <li>the student has not been classified before as an English learner.</li> </ul>	<p>The Summative Assessment is given to students who are identified as an English learner on the Initial Assessment.</p>
<b>What</b>	<p>The Initial Assessment is used to identify students as either an English learner who needs support to learn English, or as proficient in English.</p>	<p>The Summative Assessment is used to measure the skills of English learners. The results will help tell the school or district if the student is ready to be reclassified as proficient in English.</p>
<b>When</b>	<p>Students are given the Initial Assessment within 30 days of when they enroll at the school.</p>	<p>Students who are English learners are given the Summative Assessment every spring between February and May until they are reclassified as English proficient.</p>
<b>Why</b>	<p>Identifying students who need help learning in English is important so these students can get the extra help they need to do well in school and access the full curriculum. Every year students who are English learners will take the ELPAC summative to measure their progress in learning English.</p>	

## The ELPAC tests four different areas:



## Do students with disabilities take the ELPAC?

Yes, the ELPAC has been designed so that students, including those with special needs, can participate in the test and demonstrate what they know and can do. As a result, the test includes accessibility resources that address visual, auditory, and physical access barriers—allowing virtually all students to demonstrate what they know and can do.

### How Can I Help My Child Get Ready for the ELPAC?

You are an important part of your child's education. Some things you can do to help your child are:

- Read to your child, or have your child read to you in English, daily.
- Use pictures and ask your child to tell you in English what they see in the picture or what is happening in the picture.
- Talk to your child's teacher about which areas of learning English (listening, speaking, reading, writing) he or she may need extra help.
- Discuss the test with your child. Make sure he or she feels comfortable and understands the importance of taking the test.



The ELPAC is aligned with the California English Language Development Standards. These standards can be found at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/documents/eldstndpublication14.pdf>.

## For More Information:

More information about the ELPAC can be found on the California Department of Education ELPAC Web page at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/> or at the Educational Testing Services ELPAC Web page at: <http://www.elpac.org/>

More information about your child's ELPAC scores can be found by contacting your child's teacher and/or the school office.

