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# Multilingual Updates Newsletter

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Information and Updates from the California Department of Education  
(CDE) Multilingual Support Division (MSD)

*Issue 29, June 2023*

This newsletter is disseminated **quarterly** to keep you informed of new resources and guidance for supporting the English learners and multilingual learners you serve.

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## Announcements

### First LTEL CoP Meeting Held May 23, 2023

The CDE MSD, with support from Sobrato Philanthropies and technical assistance from the Center to Support Excellence in Teaching at the Stanford Graduate School of Education, established a CoP grounded in the English Learner (EL) Roadmap Policy focused on understanding the research and local data surrounding LTELs. The LTEL CoP will meet over 24 months and held its first meeting virtually on May 23, 2023.

Over the next two years, the CoP participants will collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data to better understand students identified as LTELs and design supports around their specific needs. This work will include expanding definitions of data and examining local data (including LTEL course taking, A–G completion, shadowing, observations, etc.) in novel ways through a design thinking and liberatory design framework. Dr. Laurie Olsen, author of *Reparable Harm: Fulfilling the Unkept Promise of Educational Opportunity for California's Long Term English Learners*, will contribute to the CoP planning and will document the CoP's learnings, process, and recommendations following the conclusion of the CoP.

The CDE MSD is excited to announce the **LTEL CoP participants**. They are:

- Bakersfield City School District,
- Coachella Valley Unified School District,
- Compton Unified School District,
- Elk Grove Unified School District,
- Escondido Union High School District, and
- Salinas Union High School District.

While the LTEL CoP is only able to accommodate six districts, the CDE MSD will share findings and recommendations from the CoP statewide following the conclusion of the CoP's work in a report by Dr. Laurie Olsen.

If you have questions about the LTEL CoP, please contact Gina Garcia-Smith, Education Programs Consultant (EPC), MSD, CDE by email at [ggarciasmith@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ggarciasmith@cde.ca.gov) or by phone at 916-319-0265.

## Assessment

### TK ELPAC Administration

There have been many questions from local educational agencies (LEAs) regarding the administration of the ELPAC to TK students following the TK expansion to include 4-year-olds by 2025–26 as a result of California *Education Code (EC)* Section 48000(c)(1)(G). Per *EC* Section 48000(d), LEAs are required to administer the ELPAC to eligible students in kindergarten—including year one of a two-year kindergarten program, also referred to as TK—through grade twelve.

In collaboration with the Assessment Development and Administration Division, Early Education Division, and the MSD, the CDE has determined federal and state law requires LEAs to administer the ELPAC to all eligible TK students. Therefore, the CDE must continue to require LEAs to administer the ELPAC to all eligible TK students as required by law. This decision continues to support students' rights to receive EL programs and services if identified as an EL student. Therefore, LEAs will continue to follow the same process for identifying and annually assessing EL students.

For 2023–24, the enrollment process for an LEA will not change. It is only when a student is enrolled in TK, the TK grade level will be transformed into kindergarten during the nightly California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System feed to the Test Operations Management System (TOMS). These students will appear in TOMS as kindergarten but will have the TK indicator flag set to Y (Yes), which will allow LEAs to locally track their students through the various reports and downloadable student data files available in TOMS.

We are continuing to determine the most appropriate path forward regarding English language proficiency assessment of this population of TK students and will keep you updated with any new information.

If you have any questions regarding the ELPAC, please contact the English Language Proficiency and Spanish Assessments Office by email at [ELPAC@cde.ca.gov](mailto:ELPAC@cde.ca.gov).

If you have any questions regarding EL programs and services, please contact the Multilingual Support Division by email at [LPLO@cde.ca.gov](mailto:LPLO@cde.ca.gov).

If you have any questions regarding TK programs, please contact the Early Education Division by email at [UPK@cde.ca.gov](mailto:UPK@cde.ca.gov).

### New Alternate Assessment Decision Making Worksheet

The CDE is pleased to announce the release of our new Alternate Assessment Decision Making Worksheet available as a PDF at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/altassessmentdecision.pdf>. Designed to guide and support individualized education program (IEP) teams with a step-by-step

process to determine whether a student is most appropriately assessed with an alternate assessment, the CDE's Assessment Development and Administration Division developed this new Alternate Assessment Decision-Making Tool after consulting with the CDE's Special Education Division.

Using this tool, the IEP team determines an individual student's eligibility to participate exclusively in alternate assessments. Throughout the tool, IEP teams must review multiple sources of information, including the student's IEP and other data, such as results from formative assessments, evidence-based interventions, assistive technology assessment, and the student's cumulative folder documenting supports and services. This tool can also be used as documentation for the IEP process.

For information about the California Alternate Assessments or the Alternate ELPAC, contact the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Office by phone at 916-445-8765 or by email at [caaspp@cde.ca.gov](mailto:caaspp@cde.ca.gov) or the English Language Proficiency and Spanish Assessments Office by phone at 916-319-0784 or by email at [elpac@cde.ca.gov](mailto:elpac@cde.ca.gov).

## August 2023: Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting

Registration is now open for the 2023 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting (AAIM) series, hosted by the CDE. Each session will provide the latest information and updates on California's assessment and accountability systems.

These virtual sessions will be held on consecutive Thursday afternoons, from 2–4 p.m. The dates and topics are as follows:

- **August 3, 2023**—General assessment updates, national and international tests, Physical Fitness Test, high school equivalency, English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics summative assessments, California Spanish Assessment
- **August 10, 2023**—Interim and formative assessments, ELPAC, California Science Test (CAST)
- **August 17, 2023**—California School Dashboard and accountability updates

To register, visit the Sacramento County Office of Education 2023 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting Zoom registration web page at [https://scoe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Y5LvqBnpR2qMu0OB7XsTmw#/registration](https://scoe.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y5LvqBnpR2qMu0OB7XsTmw#/registration).

If you are unable to attend but would like to receive materials or a notice when the recording is posted, complete the AAIM Materials and Recordings Google Form at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLm970-fZ-ISX7M3QN7Od0bMI05-DJkWXVK5DuQkRajPpbPQ/viewform>.

You may send questions in advance by submitting them using the AAIM Question and Answer Form at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe72p2u97LIYVKdPHKwZQNoovAzCI\\_FasKwxLe0E-KsfidZYA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe72p2u97LIYVKdPHKwZQNoovAzCI_FasKwxLe0E-KsfidZYA/viewform).

## **2023 Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series— Registration Now Open for Summer Sessions!**

The CDE is excited to announce registration is now open for the 2023 Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series summer sessions. This series provides direct, online training focused on leveraging the interim and formative components of the CAASPP and ELPAC comprehensive system of assessments to inform teaching and learning.

The 2023 Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series is designed for teachers, instructional coaches, educators on special assignment, LEA test coordinators and administrators. It is comprised of three distinct, independent modules. Module 1 and Module 2 apply to Smarter Balanced, CAST, and ELPAC assessments collectively, while Module 3 includes separate hand scoring sessions tailored to each program's interim assessments.

Each module in the series offers multiple opportunities to attend:

**Module 1: Using the Formative Assessment Process and Tools for Teachers Website to Boost Instruction**—A deep dive into formative assessment practices and resources, including an exploration of the Tools for Teachers website.

- Monday, July 10, 2023, 1–3:30 p.m.
- Monday, July 17, 2023, 1–3:30 p.m.

**Module 2: Gauging Student Progress with the CAASPP and ELPAC Interim Assessments**—A deep dive into the CAASPP and ELPAC interim assessments and associated online systems and how to use these resources to support teaching and learning.

- Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 1–3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 1–3:30 p.m.

**Module 3: Interim Assessment Hand Scoring**—In-depth instruction and practice in hand scoring interim assessments for Smarter Balanced ELA and Mathematics, CAST, and ELPAC and how to use hand scoring resources to support teaching and learning.

- **3A: Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Hand Scoring—English Language Arts/Literacy**

- Monday, July 24, 2023, 9:00 a.m.–noon
- Monday, August 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m.–noon
- **3B: Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Hand Scoring—Mathematics**
  - Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 9:00 a.m.–noon
  - Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 9:00 a.m.–noon
- **3C: CAST Interim Assessment Hand Scoring**
  - Coming this fall
- **3D: ELPAC Interim Assessment Hand Scoring**
  - Coming this fall

Register for the summer sessions by visiting the 2023 Interim and Formative Assessment Training Series Registration web page at <https://web.cvent.com/event/85e22fca-9085-4b5e-bc16-86fe58171e57/reqProcessStep1>.

If you require any accommodations to participate in this training, please send an email to [CalTrainings@wested.org](mailto:CalTrainings@wested.org).

Additional sessions for Module 1 and Module 2 will be offered in fall 2023, as well as CAST and ELPAC Interim Assessment hand scoring sessions (Module 3). Look for more information later this year.

## Literacy

### Research Study on Reading Comprehension Supplement for Grades 4 and 5

Researchers at Texas A&M University have developed a comprehensive reading comprehension intervention called Knowledge Acquisition and Transformation Expansion (KATE). KATE pairs professional supports for teachers with a web-based tutoring platform to improve reading instruction and student comprehension.

This program has been extensively researched, with four studies reviewed by the What Works Clearinghouse showing that KATE had strong positive effects on reading comprehension. Studies show that 4th and 5th grade students had gains in general reading comprehension, students' main idea generation, and summarization skills. This study is funded by ED's Education's Education Innovation Research (EIR) Expansion Grant and seeks to offer KATE to a more diverse and nationally representative sample.

WestEd and Texas A&M are seeking school district participants to pilot the program during the 2023-24 school year at no cost and participate in the research study.

Benefits to participating in this study include:

- Free access to the KATE tutoring software (uses Chrome browser)
- **Contains Spanish-language supports**
- **Appropriate for EL students** and students receiving special education services
- Free teacher professional development
- Two days of practice-based professional development, including practice and connections to the schools' curricula materials
- Coaching support for classroom implementation
- Teachers will receive \$1,000 for study activities

Contact the research team by email at [kate\\_literacy\\_study@wested.org](mailto:kate_literacy_study@wested.org) to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

## CLSD Grant Resource Spotlight

The CDE Literacy Newsletter recently spotlighted the new classroom strategy videos from Priority 6, available on the CLSD Readership website at <https://www.clsdreadership.com/learning>.

These videos include:

- Book Stack Strategy
- Conferring with Students
- Setting Up Your Literate Environment
- Alternative Ed Literacy

These brief, five-minute videos go over a strategy that classroom teachers can implement in their daily instruction to build students' literacy skills and love of reading. Priority 6 will also be adding tools and templates to accompany each video as well. Be sure to also check out the video on the State Seal of Biliteracy at <https://www.clsdreadership.com/seal-of-biliteracy>.

For an overview of each of the projects under the CLSD grant and about the Statewide Literacy Priorities, visit the CDE Literacy Lead Agency web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ps/clsdlla.asp>.

To subscribe to the Literacy Newsletter, send a blank email to [join-cde-literacy@mlist.cde.ca.gov](mailto:join-cde-literacy@mlist.cde.ca.gov).

If you have questions about the CLSD or the resources spotlighted above, contact the CDE CLSD team by email at [CLSDP@cde.ca.gov](mailto:CLSDP@cde.ca.gov).

## Resources

### ED Young Dual Language Learners: Strengthening Early Childhood Education Systems and Practices Video

The ED Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) shared a video on strengthening early childhood education for young dual language learners. OELA hosted this webinar on March 14, 2023, in collaboration with the Institute of Education Sciences' Regional Educational Laboratory West. The discussion focused on practices and state policies for young dual language learners as well as how they are codified and implemented in a variety of settings.

Speakers included:

- Dr. Pam Spycher, Regional Education Laboratory (REL) West at WestEd
- Sarah Neville-Morgan, CDE
- Steven Hicks, Sacramento County Office of Education
- Macy Parker, Silver Giving Foundation
- Guadalupe "Lupe" Villalpando, Lennox Unified School District

To access the recorded webinar, visit the National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition Young Dual Language Learners: Strengthening Early Childhood Education Systems and Practices web page at <https://ncela.ed.gov/events/2023-03-14-webinar-young-dual-language-learners-strengthening-early-childhood-education>.

### ED Multilingual Learner Toolkits

The ED OELA created three free toolkits to help parents, educators, and administrators support multilingual learners.

These toolkits include:

- The Family Toolkit (available in Arabic, Chinese, English, and Spanish);
- The English Learner Toolkit; and
- The Newcomer Toolkit.

All three toolkits are available on the ED National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition Toolkits web page at <https://ncela.ed.gov/educator-support/toolkits>.

### Early Edge California Multilingual Learner Toolkit Updates

Early Edge California announced in March 2023 that they have recently enhanced the free Multilingual Learning Toolkit.

According to Early Edge, updates include:

- A bilingual program guide,



- Six sample lesson plans and resource walks,
- Four video guides for practitioners,
- Updates to the Building Educators' Capacity instructional topic area,
- 34 new resources from partners at Sobrato Early Academic Language (SEAL)—helping us reach 425+ new resources across the 11 instructional topic areas!

Access the Multilingual Learning Toolkit website at <https://www.multilinguallearningtoolkit.org/blog/new-multilingual-learning-toolkit-updates-march-2023> for more information.

If you have questions, please contact Early Edge California via the Multilingual Learning Toolkit Contact web page at <https://www.multilinguallearningtoolkit.org/contact>.

## Webinars

### California Elementary Literacy Virtual Conference

**Date and Time:** June 14 and 15, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Description:** The Sacramento County Office of Education is pleased to announce the California Elementary Literacy Virtual Conference: Everyone Has the Right to Read. This free, two-day conference will feature evidence-based practices in elementary literacy (grades TK through six), sessions on literacy for multilingual learners, special education, assessment, social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, literacy coaching, and more. The event is free of charge.

**Registration:** Please register through the Education Speakers Network's California Elementary Literacy Conference web page at <https://educationspeakersnetwork.com/elsb-conference>.

### Structuring District and School Site Programs to Meet the Needs of Newcomer Students

**Date and Time:** June 16, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Description:** This engaging, in-person workshop is being offered as part of the CDE Educator Workforce Investment Grant (EWIG): EL Roadmap Implementation through grantee English Learner Roadmap Implementation for Systemic Excellence! (EL RISE!) and Californians Together. This workshop is designed for site and district administrators and English learner directors/coordinators. It provides an overview of theory, research, and best practices in newcomer education. Guidance for site and district administrators focuses on data, program design, placement, socioemotional supports, and collaboration with community partners to support non-academic needs. The workshop is hosted by EL RISE! partner, the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE). The cost is \$75 per individual.

**Registration:** Visit the TCOE Instructional Services Event Calendar web page at <https://tulare.k12oms.org/147-232015> to register and for further information. Contact EL

RISE! by email at [info@elroadmap.org](mailto:info@elroadmap.org) or by phone at 562-304-9929 with any questions.

## National Convening on English Learners' Civil Rights

**Date and Time:** Thursday, June 22, 2023, from 9:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. PST and on Friday, June 23, 2023, from 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. PST (Please note, times on registration page are in ET)

**Description:** Did you know that June 23, 2023, marks the 42nd anniversary of the *Castañeda v. Pickard*, 648 F.2d 989 (5th Cir. 1981) ruling, which established a three-prong test for evaluating the effectiveness of a district's bilingual education program in helping students overcome language barriers? Join the ED's OELA and Office for Civil Rights for a National Convening on English Learners' Civil Rights, a free virtual event.

This important conversation will:

- focus on laws and policies relevant to the civil rights of EL students, and
- highlight guidance and resources to equip state and local education agencies with tools to meet their obligations to EL students and families.

**Registration:** To register, visit the National Convening on English Learners' Civil Rights registration web page at <https://registration.socio.events/e/elcivilrights2023>. If you have questions, email [elcivilrights2023@manhattanstrategy.com](mailto:elcivilrights2023@manhattanstrategy.com).

## Contact Information

For questions regarding multilingual and English learner programs and services, please contact the Multilingual Support Division by phone at 916-319-0938 or by email at [MSD@cde.ca.gov](mailto:MSD@cde.ca.gov). You may also visit the CDE English Learners web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/sealofbiliteracy.asp>.

To subscribe to the Multilingual Updates Listserv and receive this newsletter along with other updates, send a blank email to [join-multilingual-support-division-updates@mlist.cde.ca.gov](mailto:join-multilingual-support-division-updates@mlist.cde.ca.gov).

