2026-27 English Learner Reclassification Webinar

October 2, 2026

MULTILINGUAL
SUPPORT DIVISION

Webinar Agenda

- The California Department of Education (CDE) is providing guidance on reclassification requirements, as amended by Assembly Bill (AB) 2555, which was signed into law on September 27, 2026.
- Agenda items:
  - California Reclassification Requirements and Criteria
  - Guidance for Reclassification of students enrolled in 2026–27 based on 2025–26 Administration Results
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Questions and Answers (Q&A)
  - Resources

Welcome Message

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Message from the California Assembly Education Committee

On behalf of

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California Assembly Education Committee



California Reclassification Requirements and Criteria

California English Learner Roadmap Principles

- **Principle One:** Assets-Oriented and Needs-Responsive Schools
- **Principle Two:** Intellectual Quality of Instruction and Meaningful Access
- **Principle Three:** System Conditions that Support Effectiveness
- **Principle Four:** Alignment and Articulation Within and Across Systems

https://www.elroadmap.org/



English Learner Students

- English learner (EL) students are those who:
  - Enroll in a California school at any grade level, kindergarten through grade twelve,
  - Have a language other than English identified on the Home Language Survey, and
  - Upon initial assessment, demonstrate a level of English language proficiency (ELP) that indicates EL programs and services are necessary.

- Students identified as English learners receive programs and services until reclassified, pursuant to *Education Code* (*EC*) Section 313.



Reclassification Overview

- Reclassification is the process whereby a student is reclassified from EL status to Reclassified to Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) status.
- Each local educational agency (LEA) establishes processes to document reclassification.



California Reclassification Criteria (Prior to AB 2555)

Reclassification Criteria

1. Assessment of ELP with Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) or Summative Alternate ELPAC
2. Teacher Evaluation
3. Parent Opinion and Consultation
4. Basic Skills Relative to English Proficient Students



Immediate Impact of AB 2555

Effective September 27, 2026:

- EL students who received an Overall Performance Level (PL) 4 on the Summative ELPAC or an Overall PL 3 on the Summative Alternate ELPAC during the 2025-26 administration are **immediately eligible** to be reclassified.

No other criteria are needed to be eligible for reclassification.

California Reclassification Criterion (with AB 2555)

AB 2555 streamlines reclassification from 4 required criteria to a single criterion.

Prior to AB 2555

Four (4) Reclassification Criteria

1. Assessment of English Language Proficiency
2. Teacher Evaluation
3. Parent opinion and consultation
4. Basic skills assessment

AB 2555

After AB 2555

One (1) Statewide Reclassification Criterion

1. Assessment of English Language Proficiency

Eligible Scores:

- Summative ELPAC Overall Performance Level 4
- Summative Alternate ELPAC Overall Performance Level 3

Effective September 27, 2026

Students who meet the applicable assessment threshold must be reclassified as RFEP.

2025–26 Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC Results

Summative ELPAC Overall Performance Level 4

133,013 students

Summative Alternate ELPAC Overall Performance Level 3

2,605 Students



Guidance for Reclassification of students enrolled in 2026–27 based on 2025–26 Administration Results

Identifying Eligible Students to Reclassify

In the Test Operations Management System (TOMS):

- Download the "**ELPAC Students Meeting Reclassification Criteria 1 Report**" for 2025−26.
- This report will show all enrolled students who received
  Overall Performance Level 4 on the Summative ELPAC
  or
  Overall Performance Level 3 on the Summative Alternate ELPAC.

Submitting RFEP to CALPADS

- After identifying the students in the downloaded TOMS report, update the local student information system (SIS) with their new English Language Acquisition Status (ELAS) of RFEP.
- Then, update students' ELAS to RFEP in the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS).
  - Use an ELAS Start Date that is between September 27, 2026, and January 31, 2027.

It is important that the ELAS Start Date falls within the student's enrollment period and is not equal to the Enrollment Start Date.

When to Submit RFEP to CALPADS

While the law specifies that students "shall be reclassified as English proficient on or before January 31, 2027," the CDE **strongly encourages** LEAs to update statuses in the SIS and upload the statuses to CALPADS in the October 2026 timeframe.



Submitting RFEP to CALPADS In a Timely Manner

Submitting in October 2026, in a timely manner, will allow the LEA to:

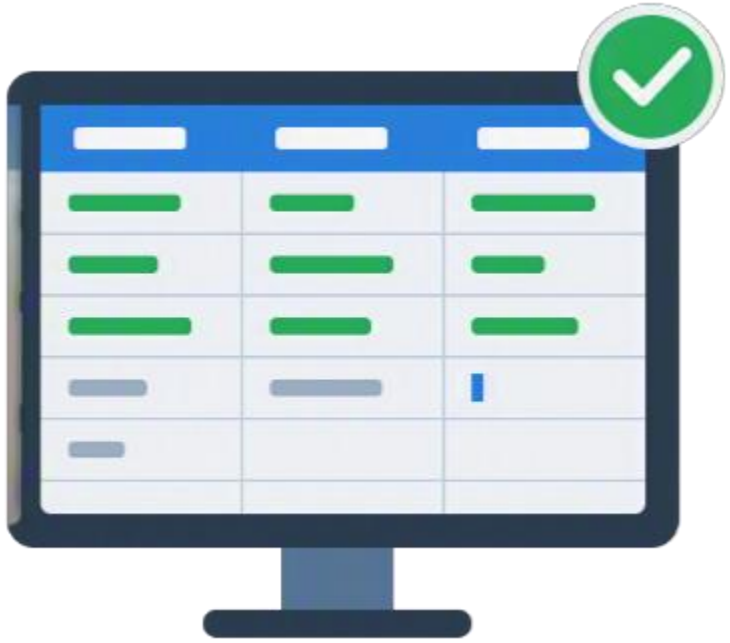
- Reflect students' RFEP statuses in CALPADS
- Appropriately reflect these students as RFEP on Census Day in their certified 2026−27 CALPADS Fall 1 submissions.
- Ensure that these students are not re-tested unnecessarily during the 2026−27 Summative ELPAC test administration window, which opens on February 1, 2027.

Future Changes to Reclassification Policy Pursuant to AB 2555

Future Changes to Reclassification

2027–28

- Parent communication requirements
- RFEP monitoring
- Reclassification automation beginning with the 2027–28 summative ELPAC results (Spring 2028)



2028–29

- Alternative pathways for dually identified students will begin in 2028–29

Future Guidance To Come

- Guidance for eligible students meeting criterion 1 based on the 2025–26 summative results who are NOT currently enrolled in 2026–27 is coming soon.
  - Impacted LEAs will hear directly from CDE on next steps.
- Guidance for reclassification using the 2026–27 summative ELPAC administration results will follow later this year.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

When can LEAs start relying solely on the Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternate ELPAC score (Criterion 1) as the basis for reclassifying EL students?

AB 2555 included an urgency clause and became effective immediately upon being signed by the Governor. LEAs must start immediately reclassifying students using only Criterion 1.

Can a student be reclassified with a score less than a Summative ELPAC Overall PL 4 or a Summative Alternate ELPAC Overall PL 3?

No.

Is a reclassification form still needed to document reclassification of students based on their assessment score alone, pursuant to AB 2555?

To preserve the record of the reclassification, LEAs may continue to use their existing reclassification forms for the student's cumulative record. LEAs would only complete the Criterion 1 portion (English Language Proficiency), and disregard Criteria 2 through 4.

May an LEA require anything beyond the Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternate ELPAC score when determining eligibility for reclassification? May it keep its reclassification committee, or require teacher sign-off?

No, pursuant to AB 2555, EL students are to be reclassified based solely on meeting the SBE-approved threshold for the Summative ELPAC Overall PL 4 or the Summative Alternate ELPAC Overall PL 3 for an EL student to be reclassified.

How will the changes in the reclassification process impact federal program monitoring (FPM)?

During FPM reviews conducted before July 1, 2027: FPM reviewers will monitor to ensure LEAs are manually reclassifying eligible students as soon as possible.

During FPM reviews conducted after July 1, 2027: FPM reviewers will continue to monitor LEAs to ensure proper reclassification of students.

When will EL students be automatically reclassified using their Summative ELPAC or Summative Alternative ELPAC scores?

AB 2555 provides that students will automatically be reclassified beginning with the 2027–28 administration of the Summative ELPAC and Summative Alternate ELPAC.

When will the alternate coursework be available to reclassify dually identified students?

The alternate coursework, performance tasks, rubrics, and the alternate path to reclassification will become available on July 1, 2028, for EL students with IEPs who meet all the requirements of *EC* 313.5.

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Resources

- CDE Reclassification web page
- CDE AB 2555 Reclassification FAQs web page
- CDE CALPADS Communications web page
- CDE **Updated** Initial and Annual Parent Notification Letters
- Coming soon:
  - Assembly Bill 2555: What Families Need to Know flyer
  - Assembly Bill 2555: Reclassify Eligible Student Now flyer



Contacts to Support AB 2555 Implementation

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Thank You!

California Department of Education
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