

Goals and Vision for English Learner Master Plan

The ultimate goal of the English Learner Program is to develop English language literacy in each English Learner as effectively and rapidly as possible so that students experience academic success comparable to native English speakers.

The Master Plan for English Learners serves as a standard for consistent program implementation and evaluation of services for English Learners. With a common staff understanding of the goals and procedures, English Learners will receive consistent high-quality services designed to meet their academic and linguistic needs by:

- Providing all students with the opportunity to participate in high quality curricular activities that address academic standards
- Offer programs based on student need and sound educational pedagogy
- Provide for and honor parent choice
- Provide staff and parent training
- Embrace parent involvement in the educational process
- Provide a process for monitoring the effectiveness of the program
- Valuing bi-literacy as a gift that will assist the student in life

Federal case law (*Castañeda vs. Pickard*, 648F.2d 989, 1981) requires that the main goals of the English Learner Program (ELP) are to develop the English language fluency of each English Learner as effectively and as efficiently as possible, and to develop mastery of the core curriculum comparable to native English speakers.

The court set forth the following standards for effective programs for English Learners:

1. The program is based on educational theory that is research-based, has proven methodology, and is recognized by experts in the field.
2. The programs or practices used are calculated to effectively implement the adopted theory, and
3. The program successfully produces results that indicate that language barriers are being overcome.

Home Language Survey

For all students in K–12, upon first enrollment in a California public school, the Local Education Agency (LEA) uses a standardized procedure to determine a student's primary language. This procedure begins with a home language survey (HLS), which is completed once by the parent or guardian at the time the student is initially enrolled in a California public school. The HLS should not be readministered every year nor readministered if a student enrolls in a new LEA. If the HLS is completed in error, the parent or guardian may make a request to change it prior to the assessment. However, once a student is identified as an EL on the basis of the results of the Initial ELPAC, and the student has been administered the Summative ELPAC, changing the HLS will not change the student's identification. While cumulative student records are in transit for a student transferring from another California School District, CALPADS shall be used to determine whether a student has a history of being an English Language Learner.

If a student has a history of being an English Learner s/he will be given an annual Summative ELPAC assessment during the February 1st through May 31st test window. If a student is new to the California Public School System and answers any of the first three questions of the Home Language Survey (HLS)

with a language other than English, further research will be done to determine if s/he will be given an Initial ELPAC assessment within 30 days of enrollment.

ELPAC Testing

State law (California Education Code [EC] sections 313 and 60810) and federal law (Titles I and III of the Every Student Succeeds Act [ESSA], the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act [ESEA]) require that LEAs administer a state test of English language proficiency (ELP) and develop an English Learner Progress Indicator (ELPI) for (1) newly enrolled students whose primary language is not English, as an initial assessment; and (2) students who are English Learners (ELs), as a summative assessment. For California's public school students, this test is the ELPAC.

The Initial ELPAC has one purpose:

- To identify students who are ELs or are initial fluent English proficient (IFEP)

The Summative ELPAC has two purposes:

- To determine the level of ELP of EL students
- To assess the progress of EL students in acquiring the skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English

All students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K–12), ages three through twenty-one, whose primary language is a language other than English must take the Initial ELPAC to determine whether they are ELs. This must be done within 30 calendar days after they are first enrolled in a California public school or 60 calendar days prior to instruction, but not before July 1, per ELPAC regulations. The Summative ELPAC must be given annually to students identified as ELs until they are reclassified to Fluent English Proficient (RFEP).

Using Initial and Summative Assessment Results

Once tests are scored by the testing agency, individual student score reports (SSRs) are loaded directly to both the parent and student portals of the school's student information system. Once received, parents will also be informed of test results within 30 calendar days electronically via email or through US mail. Parents/guardians are notified of results in writing in a language they can understand (or orally, if they are unable to understand written communication). Parents will also be notified in any language of which 15% or more of the student population speaks in common.

ELPAC results are not used to measure academic achievement. The Initial ELPAC results are used to identify ELs who need to develop their skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. This information, used with other local assessments, assists LEAs and schools when making placement decisions for new students who are identified as ELs. The Initial ELPAC results also are used to identify students who are IFEP and are able to participate in the regular (core) academic program. The Summative ELPAC results are used to see how well ELs are progressing annually toward ELP. This information is used to assist LEAs and schools in the ongoing process of program monitoring and evaluation. The Summative ELPAC results also form one of four criteria used to determine whether ELs are ready to be classified as RFEP on the basis of the reclassification process developed by the LEA, in accordance with state law.

Initial ELPAC Student Score Reports

The official score for the Initial ELPAC is produced once the LEA has entered and locked in the student's raw scores into the state assessment system. Individual student Initial ELPAC results include an overall scale score, which will indicate which of the three performance levels the student achieved: IFEP,

Intermediate EL, and Novice EL.

There will be two composite performance levels produced: Oral Language (Speaking and Listening) and Written Language (Reading and Writing). The three performance levels are well developed, somewhat to moderately developed, and minimally developed.

The Initial ELPAC report includes the following information:

- An Overall performance level and scale score
- A performance level for each composite tested (Oral and Written Language)

Initial ELPAC Performance Level Descriptors are:

- Initial Fluent English Proficient (IFEP): Students at this level have well developed oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. They can use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways that are appropriate to different tasks, purposes, and audiences in a variety of social and academic contexts. They may need occasional linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they may need light support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the upper range of the “Bridging” proficiency level as described in the 2012 California English Language Development Standards, Kindergarten Through Grade 12 (2012 ELD Standards).
- Intermediate English Learner: Students at this level have somewhat developed to moderately developed oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. This level captures a broad range of English learners, from those who can use English only to meet immediate communication needs to those who can, at times, use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways in a range of topics and content areas. They may need some degree of linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts (depending on the student, the level of support needed may be moderate, light, or minimal); they may need substantial to-moderate support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the entire “Expanding” proficiency level and to the lower range of the “Bridging” proficiency level as described in the 2012 ELD Standards.
- Novice English Learner: Students at this level have minimally developed oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) English skills. They tend to rely on learned words and phrases to communicate meaning at a basic level. They need substantial-to-moderate linguistic support to communicate in familiar social and academic contexts; they need substantial linguistic support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the “Emerging” proficiency level as described in the 2012 ELD Standards.

Summative ELPAC Student Score Reports

The official score for the Summative ELPAC is produced by the test contractor. Individual student Summative ELPAC results include an overall scale score and two composite scale scores which will indicate which of the four performance levels the student achieved. The four performance levels are: well developed (4), moderately developed (3), somewhat developed (2), and minimally developed (1).

Domain level performance will be reported as beginning, intermediate, and well developed on the ELPAC Student Score Reports. The Summative ELPAC report includes the following information:

- An Overall performance level and scale score
- A performance level and scale score for each composite tested (Oral and Written Language)
- A performance level for each domain tested (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing)

Scale score ranges for each of the four performance levels are identified for Overall, Oral Language, and Written Language for all grades tested. These ranges incorporate the performance level cut scores approved by the SBE.

The Summative ELPAC Performance Level Descriptors are:

- Level 4: English Learners at this level have well developed oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. They can use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways that are appropriate to different tasks, purposes, and audiences in a variety of social and academic contexts. They may need occasional linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they may need light support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the upper range of the “Bridging” proficiency level as described in the 2012 California English Language Development Standards, Kindergarten Through Grade 12 (CA ELD Standards).
- Level 3: English Learners at this level have moderately developed oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. They can sometimes use English to learn and communicate in meaningful ways in a range of topics and content areas. They need light-to-minimal linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they need moderate support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the upper range of the “Expanding” proficiency level through the lower range of the “Bridging” proficiency level as described in the CA ELD Standards.
- Level 2: English Learners at this level have somewhat developed oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) skills. They can use English to meet immediate communication needs but often are not able to use English to learn and communicate on topics and content areas. They need moderate-to-light linguistic support to engage in familiar social and academic contexts; they need substantial-to-moderate support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the low- to mid-range of the “Expanding” proficiency level as described in the CA ELD Standards.
- Level 1: English Learners at this level have minimally developed oral (listening and speaking) and written (reading and writing) English skills. They tend to rely on learned words and phrases to communicate meaning at a basic level. They need substantial-to-moderate linguistic support to communicate in familiar social and academic contexts; they need substantial linguistic support to communicate on less familiar tasks and topics. This test performance level corresponds to the “Emerging” proficiency level as described in the CA ELD Standards.

English Language Development (ELD) Standards

The state-adopted ELD Standards establish a framework for teachers to follow as they facilitate students’ development of the skills necessary to meet grade-level standards in English language arts and the content areas. The standards describe what students should know and be able to do at each of the five levels of English proficiency. Each ELD standard is tied to one or more of the grade level English Language Arts Standards and serves as a measure for determining a student's progress toward meeting the English Language Arts Standards. When students attain the early advanced proficiency level, they are expected to be reclassified and meet the same rigorous grade-level standards as native English speakers are expected to master.

Charter schools enrolling English Learners have a dual obligation, as do all LEAs, to provide a program for EL students designed to overcome language barriers and provide access to the core curriculum (*Castañeda v. Pickard* 648 F.2d 989, [5th Cir. 1981]). The CDE recognizes that both services, including classified ELD,

must be an integral part of a comprehensive program for every English Learner. The CDE has informed administrators that charter schools are required to provide English learner instructional services that meet this dual obligation, and other services determined necessary by the charter school, immediately.

Link to ELD Standards: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/er/documents/eldstndspublication14.pdf>

English Language Mainstream Program

English Learners will be placed in an English Language Mainstream Program. This instructional program is designed to promote the acquisition of high levels of English language proficiency, as well as access to the core curriculum. In the mainstream English program, English is the language of instruction for all subjects with no primary language support. Students in an English Language Mainstream Program will be supported by their primary instructor through the use of SDAIE strategies. Students may also be concurrently enrolled in an ELD support class. English Learners in the English Language Mainstream Program will receive ELD instruction until they are reclassified as English proficient. In the English Language Mainstream Program at Epic California Academy:

- Core instruction in language arts, math, science and social science is taught in English using charter approved curriculum and SDAIE methodology
- English Language Learners receive ELD instruction which addresses the ELD standards in listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Teachers working with EL students will be appropriately authorized, i.e. CLAD or equivalent.

SDAIE (Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English)

SDAIE is instruction in a subject area, delivered in English, that is specially designed to meet the needs of limited-English-proficient pupils. Academic instruction through English is modified to meet the student's level of language proficiency. Teachers use specialized strategies that enable students to understand, participate in and access the core curriculum. SDAIE is an instructional methodology, not a program. (EC 44253.2[b]).

SDAIE Strategies:

- Speak slowly and use repetition
- Lots of visuals and realia
- Manipulatives available
- Activate prior knowledge
- Focus on the meaning
- Graphic organizer/Charts
- Preview-Review
- Gestures and facial expressions
- Self-selected reading
- Scaffolding (visual content, graphic organizers)
- Consistent and Immediate Feedback
- Summarizing and Re-Teaching
- Reciprocal Teaching

English Language Development (ELD) Instruction

English Learners participate in an instructional program that supports their acquisition of informal English

and teaches them the patterns of formal academic English. The instruction is designed to provide for student experiences with English that are understandable and meaningful and enable the students to communicate with peers and adults and thereby participate fully in the academic program. Epic California Academy will create a personalized pathway of ELD instruction to build skills in English Language Arts (ELA). Students will take a diagnostic assessment at the beginning of the course to identify skill gaps. These students will have a targeted approach to building the specific skills that they need. Additionally, students will receive tutoring support services.

Instructional Materials to Support the CA CCSS (Common Core State Standards) for ELA/Literacy and CA ELD Standards

The State Board of Education adopts instructional materials for use by students in kindergarten through grade eight. LEAs- school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education- ARE NOT required to purchase state-adopted instructional materials according to EC Section 60210(a). If an LEA chooses to use non-adopted materials it has the responsibility to adopt materials that best meet the needs of its students and to conduct its own evaluation of instructional materials. The review must include a majority of classroom teachers from that content area or grade-level ED Section 60210(c). EC Section 60002 requires the LEA to promote the involvement of parents and other members of the community in the selection of instructional materials, in addition to teacher involvement.

ELA/literacy and ELD curricula should be well designed, comprehensive, and integrated.

The ability to read, write, and communicate with competence and confidence in English across a range of personal and academic contexts expands students' opportunities for career and college success, full and wise participation in a democratic society and global economy, and achievement of their personal aspirations. Moreover, skill in literacy and language provides individuals with access to extraordinary and powerful literature that widens perspectives, illuminates the human experience, and deepens understandings of self and others.

The CA ELD Standards are aligned to the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy as they amplify (magnify and make clear) areas of English language development that are crucial for academic learning. The standards emphasize language learning as a social process and language itself as a complex and dynamic meaning-making resource. They promote the notion of supporting English Learners to develop awareness that different languages and variations of English exist and that their home languages and cultures are valuable resources in their own right and useful for building proficiency in English.

Key Themes of ELA/Literacy and ELD Instruction

Instruction focuses on...**Meaning Making**

Meaning making is at the heart of ELA/literacy and ELD instruction. It is the central purpose for interacting with text, producing text, engaging in research, participating in discussion, and giving presentations. It is the reason for learning the foundational skills and for expanding language. Meaning making includes literal understanding but is not confined to it at any grade or with any student. Inference making and critical reading, writing, and listening are given substantial and explicit attention in every discipline. Among the contributors to meaning making are language, knowledge, motivation, and in the case of reading and writing, the ability to recognize printed words and use the alphabetic code to express ideas.

Language Development

Language is the cornerstone of literacy and learning. It is with and through language that students learn, think, and express information, ideas, perspectives, and questions. The strands of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy—Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language—all have language at the core, as do the parts of the CA ELD Standards—Interacting in Meaningful Ways, Learning About How English Works, and Using Foundational Literacy Skills. Students enrich their language as they read, write, speak, and listen and as they interact with one another and learn about language. The foundational skills provide access to written language.

Effective Expression

Each strand of the CA CCSS for ELA/Literacy and each part of the CA ELD Standards includes attention to effective expression. Students learn to examine the author's craft as they read, analyzing how authors use language, text structure, and images to convey information, influence their readers, and evoke responses. Students learn to effectively express themselves as writers, discussion partners, and presenters, and they use digital media and visual displays to enhance their expression. They gain command over the conventions of written and spoken English, and they learn to communicate in ways appropriate for the context and task.

Content Knowledge

Content knowledge is a powerful contributor to comprehension of text. It also undergirds the ability to write effective opinions/arguments, narratives, and explanatory/informational text; engage in meaningful discussions; and present ideas and information to others. It contributes significantly to language development, and it is fundamental to learning about how English works. Both sets of standards ensure that students can learn from informational texts and can share their knowledge as writers and speakers. An organized independent reading program contributes to knowledge. Content knowledge has a powerful reciprocal relationship with the development of literacy and language.

Foundational Skills

Acquisition of the foundational skills enables students to independently read and use written language to learn about the world and themselves; experience extraordinary and diverse works of literary fiction and nonfiction; and share their knowledge, ideas, stories, and perspectives with others. Students who know how to decode and develop automaticity with an increasing number of words are best positioned to make significant strides in meaning making, language development, effective expression, and content knowledge. At the same time, attention to those themes provides the very reason for learning about the alphabetic code and propels progress in the foundational skills.

(See [the Resource Guide to the Foundational Skills at www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/cf/documents/foundskillswhitepaper.pdf](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rl/cf/documents/foundskillswhitepaper.pdf).)

Monitoring of Long Term English Learners

Long-term English Learners (LTEL) are defined as students who are in grades 6 to 12, have been enrolled in U.S. schools for more than six years, have remained at the same level of English for two or more years as measured by the state's annual proficiency exam, and have scored "standard not met" or "standard nearly met" on the CAASPP ELA assessment.

ELs with little or no English proficiency need more time than native-English speakers to meet grade-level benchmarks in English and state mandated testing targets. Schools must monitor student progress to assure that additional and appropriate learning opportunities are provided in English language development and in reading, writing and other academic content areas in order to close the achievement gap.

Benchmark assessments, course grades, and the CAASPP assessments, along with the number of years a student has been classified as an EL student are used to determine if a student is making the appropriate movement toward becoming RFEP.

If it is determined that a student is not making "adequate progress", further evaluation and intervention will be planned by the teacher and parent to support students who are not meeting interim benchmarks. Interventions will be noted and filed in their cumulative folder and/or in a collaborative staff document.

Meeting the Needs of Long Term English Learners

The National Education Association's Publication: Meeting the Unique Needs of Long Term English Language Learners, A Guide for Educators provides valuable research-based information and best practices to guide schools and LEAs in supporting students at risk for becoming Long Term English Learners (LTEL).

https://www.rcoe.us/educational-services/files/2012/08/NEA_Meeting_the_Unique_Needs_of_LTEls.pdf

Elementary School Strategies and Programs that Prevent the Creation of Long Term English Language Learners:

The trajectory of a Long Term English Language Learner begins in elementary school. Taking the necessary steps early enough can help prevent an entire new generation of long term ELL students. Successful elementary school programs offer high-quality language development programs and strategies that are consistent across grade levels.

- English Language Development/English as a Second Language. Dedicated, daily, and standards-

based ELD/ESL programs address the specific needs of students at each fluency level and support instruction with quality materials that focus on all four language domains—with a major emphasis on building a strong oral language foundation; using language for interaction and meaning-making; and developing complex, precise, and academic language.

- Home language development. Programs that develop students' home language (oral and literacy) to threshold levels are a strong foundation for developing English literacy and academic success (at least through third grade, more powerfully through fifth grade, and optimally, ongoing throughout a students' education). Teaching students to read in their first language promotes higher levels of reading achievement in English and provides students the benefits of bilingualism.
- Use curriculum, instruction, and strategies. Use resources that promote transfer between English and the home language.
- Enriched oral language development. Emphasize oral language throughout the curriculum.
- Modified instructional strategies and supplemental materials provide access to academic content.
- Program coherence and consistency. Provide coherence and consistency of program across grades, including, wherever possible, articulation and alignment with preschool.
- High-quality literature: Provide students/LTEs with exposure to high-quality literature and complex and expressive language.

Seven Basic Principles for Meeting the Needs of Middle and High School Long Term English Language Learners

Seven basic principles lie at the heart of successfully educating middle and high school Long Term English Language Learners:

- Urgency: Focus urgently on accelerating LTEL progress towards attaining English proficiency and closing academic gaps.
- Distinct needs: Recognize that the needs of LTEs are distinct and cannot adequately be addressed within a "struggling reader" paradigm or a generic "English Language Learner" approach, but require an explicit LTEL approach.
- Language, literacy, and academics: Provide LTEs with language development, literacy development, and a program that addresses the academic gaps they have accrued.
- Home language: Affirm the crucial role of home language in a student's life and learning, and provide home language development whenever possible.
- Three R's: rigor, relevance, and relationships: Provide LTEs with rigorous and relevant curriculum and relationships with supportive adults (along with the supports to succeed).
- Integration: End the ESL ghetto, cease the sink-or-swim approach, and provide maximum integration without sacrificing access to LTEL supports.
- Active engagement: Invite, support, and insist that LTEs become active participants in their own education.

Catch-Up Plan

Epic California Academy is committed to closing the achievement gap for all students, including English Learners. The Instructional Support System for English Learners is a part of the standards based system of instruction, assessment, monitoring and evaluation provided for all students.

The Instructional Support System for English Learners is designed to provide the mechanisms for recording EL achievement, detecting academic deficits and monitoring the effectiveness of interventions.

To ensure all students will catch up to their grade-level peers, we have the following essential elements:

1. All English Learners are held to the same Charter-adopted curriculum and performance standards in the core curricular areas as all other students.
2. All English Learners participate in a program of curriculum and instruction that is aligned to state content standards, and designed to reduce all language barriers.
 - The English Learner program is designed to assure that participating EL students acquire English and learn grade-level academic content simultaneously and to the greatest extent possible.
 - Components of this program include: ELD, grade-level core curriculum and assessment.
3. The Instructional Support System for English Learners includes an assessment and reporting process of student academic achievement for all students, including English Learners. The use of multiple measures, the disaggregating of student achievement data, and the regular reporting of student achievement data are integral components of the Charter assessment and reporting process and recorded.
4. The performance of EL and RFEP students are monitored:
 - Students identified in need of interventions are provided the appropriate intervention aimed at filling in gaps in content knowledge so that ELs can gain full access to grade-level core content instruction in a reasonable period of time.
 - Any areas of deficiency are noted and appropriate modifications in instructional programs or student support systems are identified.

Instructional Support System

The Instructional Support System described here for ELs is based on five (5) essential elements that include: Adopted curriculum standards; curriculum and instruction aligned with adopted standards; assessment and reporting; charter and site level monitoring and intervention; and program evaluation.

1. Charter Adopted Curriculum Standards

At Epic California Academy each English Learner is held to the same charter-adopted curriculum standards in the core curricular areas of English Language Arts, math, history-social science and science as every other charter student. In addition, each EL student is expected to demonstrate mastery of the adopted ELD standards.

2. Curriculum and Instruction Aligned with Adopted Standards

Epic California Academy supports each English Learner in his/her appropriate level of language development in the core courses. Each English Learner participates in an instructional program with state adopted materials that are aligned to charter and state standards. Staff members, through articulation meetings, discuss and interpret data on English Learner students to address the issues surrounding English Learners who may have been in the educational system for some time and seem to be unable to move beyond this level.

3. Assessment and Reporting

Epic California Academy administers all state mandated examinations. ELPAC assessments and ongoing multiple measures are used to assess student proficiency. Results are entered into the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet for instructional planning and monitoring.

4. Monitoring and Intervention.

English Learner's assessment results are monitored for student progress in line with the catch-up-plan, reclassification criteria and to evaluate student learning in order to inform instruction and provide interventions as needed. When, according to on-going assessments, students are unable to meet interim expectations in academic content, students shall be referred by teachers and parents to receive academic interventions and support that enable them to overcome any academic deficits before they become irreparable. The intervention itself will directly target the identified academic need. Delivery of the intervention shall be monitored and documented. The effectiveness of the intervention will then be determined based on student work and assessments.

Note: When Special Education students, identified as ELs, are not making adequate progress Special Education teachers must schedule an IEP meeting to discuss further interventions.

Staffing Authorizations

Epic California Academy takes an active role in the recruitment and staffing of authorized personnel for all English Learner programs and makes it a priority to hire CLAD or equivalent teachers. Teachers providing instruction in a Mainstream English Program shall be authorized to provide appropriate core content and ELD instruction. This is achieved via a CLAD or equivalent authorization.

Teachers who are not currently authorized but who are working with English Learners shall be required to sign a memorandum of understanding stipulating that they will be actively participating in professional development designed to secure an appropriate authorization within two years. The HR Department will then monitor attendance at professional development activities to ensure that such teachers remain on track to complete the necessary training for their authorizations.

Professional Development

Epic California Academy provides ongoing professional development opportunities to all teachers and staff working with English Learners. The goal of this training is to help educators acquire specific skills needed to work with English Learners in the areas of ELD instruction, comprehensible core content instruction, program designs, curriculum expectations, the Catch-up Plan, processes and services for English Learners. Training should also focus on multiculturalism and up-to-date research and pedagogy for English Learners to receive equitable and accessible support and opportunities to achieve and reach their goals.

Staff development opportunities include, but are not limited to the following:

- ELD Standards
- ELPAC assessment and identification levels
- ELD strategies and instruction
- SDAIE strategies and instruction
- Differentiated instruction
- Charter Catch-up plan training, if applicable
- Shared Best Practices

To ensure that all staff working with parents of EL students are appropriately trained, training participation and completion is documented.

Reclassification

California Education Code (EC) Section 313 and the California Code of Regulations (5CCR) Section

11308 require that each English Learner who 1) has demonstrated English language proficiency comparable to that of the average native English speaker and 2) who can participate effectively in a curriculum designed for pupils of the same age whose native language is English be Reclassified Fluent English Proficient (RFEP). Epic California Academy recognizes the importance and irreversibility of this item and have established the following criteria and process to fully address this obligation.

Once a student has demonstrated that he/she is ready to participate fully in all English instruction without special support services, the student is ready for reclassification.

Reclassification Criteria

Epic California Academy employs the following criteria for reclassifying EL students to RFEP status, as established in EC Section 313 and Title 5 California Code of Regulations (5 CCR) Section 11303:

1. Summative ELPAC Overall Score of 4 (score of 3 required for Summative Alternate ELPAC)
2. Teacher Evaluation using the Observation Protocol for Teachers of English Learners (OPTTEL)
3. Parent Consultation using the OPTTEL Parent Consultation Form
4. Basic skills evaluation relative to average native English speaker performance of the same age, based on locally established empirical benchmarks such as: CAASPP Scores, NWEA Reading Score of Proficient.

Reclassification Process

Reclassification represents the culmination of an EL student's participation in the English Learner program and occurs annually upon receipt of ELPAC score reports.

When students meet the above reclassification criteria and qualify for reclassification, Epic administration drafts a notification letter that includes all relevant reclassification data. Following signatures from both the administration and the student's parent/guardian, reclassification proceeds. The student's language acquisition status receives updates in the student information system, Ellevation, on the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet, and ultimately in the state reporting system (CALPADS). Additionally, all teachers associated with the student receive reclassification notification.

Monitoring of Reclassified Students

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title III requires that reclassified students be monitored for a period of at least 24 months following reclassification. School staff will use the Smarter Balanced assessment, local multiple measure scores, and teacher assessments and observations to semi-annually monitor the progress of RFEP students for a period no less than four (4) years after reclassification. Student performance shall be reviewed at each progress reporting period. Those students found to be regressing in their academic performance will be referred to receive an academic intervention in the specific area of need (please see EL Catch-up Plan Interventions). This monitoring of RFEP students is recorded on the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet.

English Learners in Special Education

In accordance with the ED guidance issued in July 2014, the ED requires that all ELs with disabilities participate in the state's ELP assessment. Federal law requires that all ELs with disabilities participate in

the state ELP assessment in the following ways, as determined by the IEP team:

- In the regular state ELP assessment without universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations
- In the regular state ELP assessment with universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations determined by the IEP team or Section 504 team
- In an alternate assessment aligned with the state's ELD standards, if the IEP team determines that the student is unable to participate in the regular ELP assessment with or without universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations

Role of the IEP Team

The IEP team is an essential component in establishing the appropriate academic and functional goals, determining the specifically designed instructional program to meet the unique needs of all ELs with disabilities, and making decisions about how students can participate in the state ELP assessment. In accordance with the new ED guidance, the IEP team is responsible for:

- Making decisions about the content of a student's IEP, including whether a student must take a regular state assessment (in this case, the ELP assessment), with or without appropriate universal tools, designated supports and/or accommodations, or an alternate assessment in lieu of the regular ELP assessment (ED, July 2014, FAQ #4).
- Developing an IEP for each student with a disability, including each EL with a disability, at an IEP team meeting, which includes school officials and the child's parents/guardians. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regulation in Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, (34 CFR) Section 300.321(a) specifies the participants to be included on each child's IEP team. It is essential that IEP teams for ELs with disabilities include persons with expertise in English language acquisition and other professionals, such as speech-language pathologists, who understand how to differentiate between English proficiency development and a disability (ED, July 2014, FAQ #5). Ensuring that ELs' parents or guardians understand and are able to meaningfully participate in IEP team meetings at which the child's participation in the annual state ELP assessment is discussed. If a parent whose primary language is other than English is participating in IEP meetings, the IDEA regulations require each public agency to take whatever action necessary to ensure that the parent understands the proceedings of the IEP team meeting, including arranging for an interpreter (34 CFR Section 300.322[e]). When parents themselves are ELs, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 also requires that the LEA effectively communicate with parents in a manner and form they can understand, such as by providing free interpretation and/or translation services (ED, July 2014, FAQ #6).
- Ensuring that all ELs, including those with disabilities, participate in the annual state ELP assessment, with or without universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations or take the Alternate ELPAC, if necessary (ESSA Section 1119[b][7] and IDEA Section 612[a][16][A]). An IEP team cannot determine that a particular EL with a disability should not participate in the annual state ELP assessment (ED, July 2014, FAQ #7).

IEP teams will ensure that each English Learner receives appropriate services to develop English proficiency and have equitable access to the full curriculum. Each English Learner's IEP shall include linguistically appropriate goals and objectives based on the student's level of English proficiency and based on the ELD standards. Such goals and objectives will fully address ELD and core content instruction. Each IEP shall also clearly delineate the person(s) and/or programs responsible for providing each instructional service. A parental exception waiver is not required for an English Learner whose IEP indicates that instructional services will be provided through an Alternative Program.

SpEd: Assessment

Students whose initial Home Language Survey indicates that a language other than English is spoken will be assessed on the ELPAC test within the first 30 days of school annually. ELPAC testing is considered to be one of the state's standardized tests; therefore, accommodations/modifications provided in the IEP for any standardized test will apply. SpEd students with an existing EL classification will be assessed annually. If a student is slated to take the ELPAC test, who also would qualify for the CAA, the Special Education Director will be notified so that we can evaluate the need for the Alternate ELPAC.

SpEd: Classification

Students who are classified as English Learners MUST have their ELD needs addressed as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students who have been reclassified as Fluent English Proficient (RFEP) or who were initially identified as Initially Fluent English Proficient (IFEP) are *not* considered English Learners for the purpose of the IEP. Their progress is still monitored, but ELD does not need to be addressed on the IEP.

Needs of English Learners

The needs of English Learners are addressed in several places on the IEP:

Student Information:

- Is the student an English Learner?
- What is the student's primary language?
- Proficiency Level and Date: Overall ELPAC proficiency level and scaled score from most recent annual assessment (This information can be obtained from the English Learner/Assessment Lead, the SIS, the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet or from the English Learner folder that is part of the student's cumulative file)
- Is an interpreter required? (*for the parents*) Indicate the language for the interpreter.

Present Levels:

- Most recent ELPAC scores should be listed for each domain area (list performance level as well as scaled score)
- *Academic Skills:* In addition to the academic data usually included, it should be indicated how the student's English language development needs, if any, will be addressed in each academic area. For each area on the ELPAC that falls below level 3, the student's IEP must have a goal written to address that area (i.e. listening, speaking, reading, and/or writing).
- *Communication:* Information on the student's language development should be specified in this section of the IEP, including the student's primary language and how the student's language development (expressive and receptive) relates to his/her ability to communicate with others and its impact on his/her school performance.

Special Factors:

- Testing Accommodations/Modifications: If the student needs the same accommodations or modifications as are being used on the CAASPP tests, the box next to "Other statewide/charter assessments" will be checked and "Same as Above" for the listed accommodation/modification will be written.

Annual Goals:

- Each English Learner's IEP shall include linguistically appropriate goals and objectives based on the student's level of English proficiency and based on the ELD standards. Such goals and objectives will fully address ELD and core content instruction. Each IEP shall also clearly delineate the person(s) and/or programs responsible for providing each instructional service.
- For each area on the ELPAC that falls below level 3, the student's IEP must have a goal written to address that area (i.e. listening, speaking, reading, and/or writing).
- Ensure that goals are linguistically appropriate (see below)

Services:

- If the student requires any supplemental aids or services or any special education services to enable the student to benefit from their ELD services or setting, they will be listed in the IEP. If the IEP team determines that the student's program should be modified from that of other ELD students in order to meet the student's unique educational needs, that modification should be listed in the IEP.

Writing Linguistically Appropriate Goals and Benchmarks-

- Based on the most recent ELPAC results and other information on the Present Levels page, identify the "Areas of Need" that the IEP goals will address in listening, speaking, reading and writing.
 - In the *Baseline* section, describe what the student is currently able to do in the skill area of need and indicate the ELPAC proficiency level in parenthesis. For example: Area of Need: Writing, Baseline: Student is able to write simple sentences with some errors in grammar and syntax (ELPAC Writing - Level 1).
- Write (or modify from a goal bank selection) an annual goal to ensure that it is linguistically appropriate and includes the words "in English."
 - For example: By (*date*), following teacher-led prewriting activities, (*student name*) will compose a single paragraph in English including a topic sentence, three supporting sentences and a concluding paragraph with ___% accuracy in ___ of ___ trials as measured by student work samples.

Note: It is best practice to insert the phrase "in English" to emphasize the language component of the goal.

Check the "Linguistically Appropriate" box to indicate the goal is linguistically appropriate to meet the student's English language development needs.

Special Education EL Reclassification

In some cases, an IEP team may find that it is the disability that interferes with a student's ability to demonstrate English fluency. In these cases, the IEP team can recommend reclassification of the student to RFEP status.

The Administrative Designee and/or Case Manager should include the rationale for reclassification.

Avoid:

- Focus on family history...Focus on assessment results and the impact of the disability
- Including parents' wishes for reclassification or opinion as to the validity of ELPAC scores or current English learner status (focus on the needs of the child)
- Basing recommendation for changing EL status on the belief of the parent(s) or team members

that the EL status or Home Language Survey was erroneous to begin with and therefore the student should never have been classified as EL. This is a matter outside of the scope of the IEP team and cannot be the basis for the team's recommendation for reclassification.

If the recommendation for reclassification is taking place as part of the student's initial IEP or annual review, then all other pages of the IEP are completed to reflect the recommendation that the student is to be reclassified as RFEP (Reclassified Fluent English Proficient). If the recommendation for reclassification is taking place between annual reviews, then in addition to completing the *IEP Team Recommendation for Reclassification of Special Education English Learners* form, an *IEP Amendment* meeting and form must also be completed. All applicable staff should be a part of the reclassification meeting. If the team decides to reclassify the student as RFEP, the Special Education teacher or Case Manager will include a copy of the *IEP Team Recommendation for Reclassification of Special Education English Learners* form in the EL file, will update the EL Master Tracking Spreadsheet and follow all other reclassification procedures. These procedures include notifying the assessment and accountability department of the reclassification. Because this is an IEP team recommendation, the parents must be part of the decision. If the reclassification is not agreed upon, the IEP team must ensure that the IEP continues to address the needs of the student who remains classified as an English learning student.

Accountability and Evaluation

California has been working for the past several years to improve education at the state level. The goal is to increase the academic achievement of all students by creating a coordinated system through the use of content and performance standards. In response to statewide accountability reform, Epic California Academy provides clearly-defined standards and expectations for student learning and have a primary goal that all students will meet the charter's academic content and performance standards.

Through the Epic California Academy assessment program, the assessment and accountability department carefully considers what students are asked to do, how student performance is evaluated and how evaluation results are used. The assessment program is responsive to the developmental differences, linguistic differences, and special needs of English Learners. Through multiple forms of assessment, Epic California Academy is able to determine to what degree English Learners are achieving English proficiency and meeting academic achievement goals.

Epic California Academy's assessment practices with respect to English Learners are designed to:

- Assess and monitor language development by time in program
- Assess academic achievement in meeting grade level core standards
- Assess progress of ELs achieving ELD grade level standards
- Ensure learning opportunities in reading and writing are provided
- Monitor that targeted interventions are working

Assessment data is compiled, analyzed and reported by Epic California Academy administration. Their reports are then analyzed by the Programs Director to produce a set of suggested program modifications which are then shared with the teachers and EL parents for additional input and approval.

Epic California Academy annually determines the number and percentage of EL students who have become RFEP through ongoing uploads of information to CALPADS. CALPADS reports the actual count of EL, FEP, and RFEP students during the calendar year as well as the number of teachers providing and authorized to provide appropriate instruction for English Learners.