

California English Language Development Test

Information for Parents and Guardians

Prepared by
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What is the California English Language Development Test?

Federal and state laws require a state test that school districts must give to students whose primary home language is not English. In California, this test is called the California English Language Development Test (CELDT).

What is the purpose of the CELDT?

The purpose of this test is to:

- Identify new students who are English learners in kindergarten through grade twelve
- Determine their level of English proficiency
- Annually assess their progress in learning English

Who is an English learner?

An English learner is a student in kindergarten through grade twelve who needs additional English language instruction to develop the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills required to fully participate in the regular school program.

Who must take the CELDT?

All students in kindergarten through grade twelve, whose primary language listed on a home language survey is not English, must take the CELDT within 30 calendar days after they are enrolled in a California public school for the first time. The CELDT also must be given once each year to English learners until they become proficient in English.

Do English learners with disabilities take the CELDT?

Yes. All English learners must take the CELDT, and this includes English learners with disabilities. Students with disabilities who take the CELDT may use test variations, accommodations, modifications, and/or alternate assessments as specified in their individualized education programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Plans. Students with Section 504 Plans may not use an alternate assessment for the CELDT.

What does the CELDT cover?

Beginning in 2009–10, the CELDT for all grades tested covers listening, speaking,

reading, and writing. The CELDT is based on California English language development standards, adopted by the State Board of Education.

Who gives the CELDT?

Only trained examiners give the test. In grades two through twelve, the speaking domain of the CELDT is administered individually to each student and the listening, reading, and writing domains are administered to groups of students. In kindergarten, all domains are administered individually to each student. In grade one, the domains of speaking, reading, and writing are administered individually; however, the listening domain may be administered to groups of students.

How long does it take for students to complete the CELDT?

The CELDT is not a timed test. In kindergarten and grade one, each domain takes approximately 15 to 30 minutes for each student to complete. In grades two through twelve, the speaking domain of the test takes about 10 to 15 minutes for each student to complete. The listening, reading, and writing domains combined take about two hours to complete. The writing domain may be divided into two sessions.

How are the CELDT results reported for individual students?

There are five levels of performance a student can achieve. These levels are: Beginning, Early Intermediate, Intermediate, Early Advanced, and Advanced.

The report of results for each student provides:

- The overall performance level and score
- A performance level and score for each domain of the test (listening, speaking, reading, and writing)
- A comprehension score (average of the scores for listening and reading)

How are results of the CELDT used?

Test results for newly enrolled students are used to help identify English learners who need to develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in English. Results from annual CELDT testing are used to see how well students are learning English. School districts also use annual assessment results as one of four criteria to help decide when students may be reclassified as fluent English proficient (RFEP).

What criteria in addition to the CELDT are used to decide when students may be reclassified?

Additional reclassification criteria used by school districts include performance on an assessment of basic skills in English (such as the California English–language arts Standards Test), teacher evaluation, and parent opinion and consultation.

How can parents or guardians find out more about the CELDT or their child's

results?

Parents or guardians, who want more information about the CELDT or their child's results on the CELDT, should contact their child's teacher and/or school office. Parents or guardians also are invited to request a conference to review the CELDT results or to attend one of the information meetings scheduled by the school.

For more information...

Information about the CELDT is available on the California Department of Education CELDT Resources Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/resources.asp>.