August 23, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

State and federal laws require all school districts in California to give a state test of English proficiency to students whose primary language is not English. All students entering school for the first time will be assessed with the Initial English Language Proficiency Assessments of California (ELPAC) if their home language is not English. The Initial ELPAC will be the test used to determine if a student is an English learner or is fluent in English. This required test will help identify students who need help learning English. This is important so that they can receive the support they need to do well in all school subjects.

Based on the results of the Home Language Survey, your child will be assessed with the Initial ELPAC within 30 calendar days after the first day of school.

You are an important part of your child’s education. To help your child get ready for the test, you can:

- Read to your child or have them read to you on a regular basis.
- Use pictures and ask your child to tell you what they see, or what is happening in each picture.
- Provide your child with opportunities to use language outside of school.
- Talk with your child’s teacher about your child’s listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills to help support their progress.

To learn more about the ELPAC, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guide to Understanding the ELPAC webpage at https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/documents/elpacpgtu.pdf.

You also can look at sample test questions on the ELPAC practice tests, which can be found on the ELPAC website at https://www.elpac.org/resources/practicetests/.

If you have any questions about your child taking the ELPAC, please contact your child’s school during school hours.

Sincerely,

Alison Yoshimoto-Towery
Interim Chief Academic Officer

Lydia Acosta Stephens
Executive Director