

California English Language Development Test Information for Parents and Guardians

What is the California English Language Development Test?

Federal and state laws require a state test that school districts must give to students whose 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.
- To determine their level of English proficiency.
- To annually assess their progress in learning English.

Who is an English learner?

An English learner is a student, with a home language other than English, who is not yet proficient in English.

Who must take the CELDT?

All students whose primary language listed on the Home Language Survey is not English must take the test 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. **Parents and guardians cannot remove (opt out) their children from this requirement.**

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.

What does the CELDT cover?

The CELDT for students in grades two through twelve covers listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The 2008–09 CELDT administration for students in kindergarten and grade one only covers listening and speaking. Beginning in 2009–10, students in kindergarten and grade one also will be assessed in early literacy (reading and writing). The CELDT in all grades tested 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. The speaking part of the CELDT is given individually to each student. The listening, reading, and writing domains are given to groups of students.

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

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 2 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. They 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 use the annual results as one of four criteria to help decide when students may be reclassified as fluent English proficient (RFEP).

What other criteria are used to decide when students may be reclassified?

Additional reclassification criteria used by school districts include performance in basic skills (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 student’s results?

Parents or guardians who wish more information about the CELDT or their student’s results on the CELDT, should contact their student’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 on the CELDT Resources Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/resources.asp>.