English Learner Reclassification Process and Timeline 2021-22

The Fresno Unified School District has developed English Learner (EL) student reclassification policy and procedures based on criteria set forth by the California department of Education (CDE) guidelines. According to CDE, the goal of the English Learner program is to:

- Ensure that English learners acquire full proficiency in English as rapidly and effectively as possible and attain parity with native speakers in English, and
- Ensure that English learners, within a reasonable period of time, achieve the same rigorous grade-level academic standards that are expected of all students.¹

Students initially identified as English Learners (ELs) are reclassified as Fluent English Proficient when they are proficient in English and meet the following criteria following the process below:

1. Overall English proficiency level of 4 on the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC).²
2. Teacher Evaluation – Teachers will receive a notification from Ellevation to review EL student progress data in Ellevation platform. Teachers review and complete the Teacher Recommendation Form for Reclassification.
3. Parent/Guardian consultation – A conference will be scheduled to review reclassification criteria and student progress. Translation services will be provided as necessary. For students learning virtually, parent/guardians will be consulted with by phone. Parents/Guardians will also be notified via U.S. Postal Service of student qualification for reclassification.
4. Comparison of the performance of the pupil in basic skills against an empirically established range of performance in basic skills based upon the performance of English proficient pupils of the same age, that demonstrates whether the pupil is sufficiently proficient in English to participate effectively in a curriculum designed for pupils of the same age whose native language is English.³

CDE has updated their reclassification guidance as of August 5, 2021. Scores must be consecutive for the ELPAC and basic skills tests. For example, 2020-21 ELPAC scores can be used through the next test administration window for reclassification purposes. Once the window passes and if the students are not administered the 2021-22 Summative ELPAC, they will be counted as non-testers.

¹ California Department of Education (April 2019), Facts about English Learners in California, retrieved from https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sd/cb/cefelfacts.asp
² No additional sub-score or criteria should be added to the ELPAC Overall 4 determination, Reclassification Guidance for 2019-20 (September 2019), retrieved from https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/rd/reclass1920.asp
³ California Department of Education (July 2020), retrieved from https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/el/rd/
Please note that the California Department of Education (CDE) requires that students be monitored regularly, for four years after reclassification. Fresno Unified defines regularly as four times per year, once per quarter. Please keep an eye out for an Ellevation notification regarding your RFEP students who need quarterly monitoring and complete the Quarterly RFEP form electronically every quarter.

**Timeline**

**Cycle 1: September 27 – October 22**
- Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 Students who meet the reclassification criteria are identified and schools/teachers are notified.
- Oct. 4 – Oct. 8 Teachers review student data in Ellevation and the online Teacher Observation Matrix for Reclassification, and then electronically sign and date the Teacher Recommendation Form in Ellevation if they agree with reclassification, or they complete the English Learner Intervention Plan and submit it to their principal or principal designee for review.
- October 11 – 21 Teachers consult with parents and document in Ellevation.
- October 22 Parent notification letters are sent home via US mail.

**Cycle 2: January 10 - 24**
- January 10 Students who meet the reclassification criteria are identified and schools/teachers are notified.
- January 12 Teachers review student data in Elvation and the online Teacher Observation Matrix for Reclassification, and then electronically sign and date the Teacher Recommendation Form in Ellevation if they agree with reclassification, or they complete the English Learner Intervention Plan and submit it to their principal or principal designee for review.
- January 17-21 Teachers consult with parents and document in Ellevation.
- January 24 Parent notification letters are sent home via US mail.

**Cycle 3: May 2 - 16**
- May 2 Students who meet the reclassification criteria are identified and schools/teachers are notified.
- May 4 Teachers review student data in Elvation and the online Teacher Observation Matrix for Reclassification, and then electronically sign and date the Teacher Recommendation Form in Ellevation if they agree with reclassification, or they complete the English Learner Intervention Plan and submit it to their principal or principal designee for review.
- May 9-13 Teachers consult with parents and document in Ellevation.
- May 16 Parent notification letters are sent home via US mail.
Reclassification Cycles and Assessment Criteria

Cycle 1
September 27 - October 22
• Students identified by 20/21 ELPAC = 4 OR Students without 20/21 ELPAC score identified by 19/20 ELPAC = 4 AND
• Students in grades 1-12 identified by i-Ready #1 = On/Above Grade Level or one Grade Level Below (Standard View)

Cycle 2
January 10 - 24
• Students identified by 20/21 ELPAC = 4 OR Students without 20/21 ELPAC score identified by 19/20 ELPAC = 4 AND
• Students in grades 1-12 identified by i-Ready #2 = On/Above Grade Level or one Grade Level Below (Standard View) OR
• Students in grades 1-12 identified by i-Ready #2 = Two or More Grade Levels Below (Standard View) AND 50% Stretch Growth OR
• Students in grades 9-11 identified by 20/21 PSAT = Met College Readiness Grade Level Benchmarks

Cycle 3
May 2 - 16
• Students in grades 1-12 identified by 21/22 ELPAC = 4 AND
• Students in grades 1-12 identified by i-Ready #3 = On/Above Grade Level (Standard View) OR
• Students in grades 1-12 identified by i-Ready #3 = Two or More Grade Levels Below (Standard View) AND 80% Stretch Growth