



NEW Transitional Kindergarten Multilingual Learner Screening Instruments and Updated Implementation Timeline

Background

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 2268](#) ensured that California's youngest emerging multilingual learners (MLs) are not assessed using developmentally inappropriate measures of English proficiency. The law took immediate effect, exempting Transitional Kindergarten (TK) students from taking the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) beginning in the 2024-25 school year. **AB 2467, signed September 27, 2026, extended the implementation timeline for the TK multilingual learner screeners by one year.**

New TK Language Screeners

The California Department of Education (CDE) has selected two screening tools, the [IPT Early Childhood](#) and the [Pre-Language Assessment Scales](#) (preLAS), for local educational agencies (LEAs) to better understand children's language development and inform responsive, equitable supports in TK classrooms. The approved screening instruments and training will be provided to LEAs at no cost.

The selected screeners are developmentally appropriate and designed for young MLs in early childhood. Both are available in English and Spanish and designed for young children and use age-appropriate, interactive approaches to better understand children's emerging language development.

Importantly, these screening tools are not used for English Learner (EL) identification or classification, but rather to provide information for educators to tailor instruction and support for MLs.

Timeline and Next Steps for the Rollout of the TK ML Screeners

- 2027-2028 School Year: Voluntary field testing of approved TK ML screeners begins.
- 2028-2029 School Year: Mandatory statewide implementation of approved TK ML screeners begins.

What to Expect Next

- CDE will develop guidance for LEAs on the use of approved screening instruments.
- An informational webinar hosted by CDE in fall 2026 about the screening instruments and rollout is forthcoming.
- Additional implementation resources and guidance will be released as implementation planning continues.
- LEAs are encouraged to wait for CDE guidance on TK screening implementation rather than contacting vendors directly.
- Consider participating in the voluntary field-testing process.

Opportunity to Participate in TK ML Screeners Field Testing

The CDE is actively recruiting districts both new to the screeners, as well those already using them, to participate in the voluntary field testing process for the 2027-28 school year to support the implementation of the TK ML screening tools. District engagement will help inform effective implementation practices and strengthen supports for California's youngest MLs.

Districts interested in participating are encouraged to complete the TK ML Screener Field Test Interest Form linked [here](#) or contact the CDE Language Policy and Leadership Office at TKMLScreener@cde.ca.gov