

Region 5 Parent and Family Engagement Newsletter

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Title III, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), aims to ensure that English learners (ELs) and immigrant students attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic achievement in English. Title III will also assist all English learners meet the same challenging State academic standards that all children are expected to meet.

How to Help Your Child Prepare for Standardized Tests: TELPAS

One tool that schools use to learn about students is the standardized test. Understanding the role of testing will help you to enable your child to succeed in school and to develop a better relationship between your family and your child's school.

Standardized tests are designed to give a common measure of students' performance. Because large numbers of students throughout the state take the same test, they give educators a common yardstick or "standard" of measure. Educators use these standardized tests to tell how well school programs are succeeding or to give themselves a picture of the skills and abilities of today's students.

The Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) is an assessment program for students in Texas public schools who are learning the English language. Texas annually assesses the English proficiency of students identified as English learners (ELs) in four language domains – listening, speaking, reading, and writing.



How are the TELPAS language domains assessed?

In grades K-1, TELPAS includes holistically-rated listening, speaking, reading, and writing assessments based on ongoing classroom observations and student interactions. Teachers use specific language proficiency guidelines to determine whether your child is at the beginning, intermediate, advanced, or advanced high stage of learning English. In grades 2-12, TELPAS includes online reading and listening and speaking tests and holistically-rated writing collections.

Who takes TELPAS?

Students in K-12 that have been identified as EL including those whose parents have declined BIL/ESL Services.

What do TELPAS results tell me about my child?

Every student that participates in TELPAS receives a report card with their test results. TELPAS uses 4 proficiency ratings – Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and Advanced High to show the progress the student makes from year to year.

When is TELPAS given?

The assessment window is February 25-April 5, 2019.

What Can You Do at Home?

There are a number of ways that you can maximize your child's learning capabilities throughout the school year, which can lead to confident test-taking. Some of these strategies include:

- Assisting your child with homework and ensuring that your child is completing all homework assignments
- Helping her to develop good study habits, thinking skills, and a positive attitude towards education from an early age
- Ensuring that your child has good attendance at school
- Staying in communication with your child's teacher
- Encouraging your child to read as much as possible, and to increase her vocabulary - even reading magazines, newspapers, and comic books regularly will help improve her reading skills
- Looking for educational games and programs that engage your child
- Helping your child learn how to follow directions carefully (Dietel, 2008; IRA (2002); Narang, 2008).

As you help your child do her best on the tests she takes and in all of her schoolwork, also remind her that testing is just one part of her education. With your support and involvement, she will be well on her way to her own bright future.

Resource: colorincolorado.org

Resources for TELPAS:

<https://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/ell/telpas/>

TELPAS FAQ for Parents – English

TELPAS FAQ for Parents – Spanish

<https://www.texasassessment.com/>

Learn more about your child's score

How to help your child succeed



English Proficiency Levels:

Beginning – Students who receive this rating are in the early stages of learning English. These students have a small vocabulary of very common words and little ability to use English in academic settings. These students often communicate using English they have memorized.

Intermediate – Students who receive this rating are able to use common, basic English in routine academic activities but need considerable English-language support to make learning understandable. Socially, these students are able to communicate simply about familiar topics and are generally able to understand conversations but may not comprehend all the details.

Advanced – Students who receive this rating are able to understand and use academic English in classroom activities when given some English-language support. In social situations, these students can understand most of what they hear but have some difficulty with unfamiliar grammar and vocabulary.

Advanced High – Students who receive this rating are able to use academic English in the classroom activities with little English-language support from others, even when learning about unfamiliar material. Student at this level have a large enough vocabulary in English to communicate clearly and fluently in most situations.