



NEWS RELEASE

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Santa Clara County English Learner students continue upward trend; outpace the state

SAN JOSE, CA – Results from the most recent California English Language Development Test (CELDT) indicate that almost half of Santa Clara County’s English Learner (EL) students are scoring “Early Advanced” or “Advanced,” outpacing their peers at the state level and continuing an eight-year upward trend. While typically very close to the state average, Spanish-speaking EL students in the county matched the scores of their counterparts statewide for the first time since 2007-08.

Forty-five percent of the county’s nearly 52,000 EL students achieved a score of “Early Advanced” or “Advanced.” Early Advanced means students speak, read, and write English well enough to do well in a standard classroom and Advanced means they are almost ready to be reclassified as Fluent English Proficient and exited out of the EL program. Statewide, only 42 percent of students scored as well. Moreover, Santa Clara County had a higher percentage of students meeting the CELDT Criterion for English Proficiency – scoring Early Advanced or higher on the overall test and “Intermediate” or better on subtests of listening, speaking, reading, and writing – than did the state (43 percent and 39 percent, respectively).

“As a former teacher of English Learners, it’s especially gratifying to see these steady increases year-after-year and I commend the dedication of teachers, families and students in achieving these results,” said County Superintendent of Schools Jon Gundry. “I am proud to be able to partner with districts that continue to make Santa Clara County a leader in English Learner success.”

The Santa Clara County Office of Education supports English Learners through [a variety of professional development opportunities](#) and resources designed to give teachers the tools they need to ensure students master academic content while refining their English skills. At the same time, initiatives like the SCCOE [Seal of Biliteracy and Pathway Awards](#) encourage bilingual students and native English-speaking students to maximize the potential of mastering two languages.

A new English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) is being developed that call for the CELDT assessments to be phased out after 2016-17. An ELPAC pilot test will be administered in 2015-16, a field test in 2016-17, and full implementation in the years following.

(See [attached memo](#) for additional information on the 2014-15 CELDT results.)