



Viewpoints

English Learner TK Students Now Exempt From ELPAC

The recent decision by California to exempt transitional kindergarten (TK) students who speak another language at home from the English Language Proficiency Assessments (ELPAC) marks a significant step towards equity and developmental appropriateness in early education. This exemption acknowledges that TK focuses more on social-emotional skills and foundational learning rather than advanced linguistic abilities. By eliminating the ELPAC requirement for these young learners, the state not only reduces unnecessary stress and pressure on 4-year-olds but also ensures that assessments align with their developmental stage.

This legislative change reflects a growing understanding of early childhood education's nuances and challenges, particularly for English learners. Moving forward, it will be crucial for educational policymakers to continue refining assessment strategies that are inclusive, developmentally appropriate, and supportive of all children's learning needs, regardless of their linguistic background. This exemption sets a positive precedent for educational equity and the thoughtful adaptation of assessment practices in early childhood education.

You can read the full article at:

"They're reading and writing in kindergarten, whereas in TK, you're writing your name and learning your sounds," Rossi said. "I always felt in my heart that all students were English language learners in TK, especially because they're still learning the skills, how to speak correctly and properly, comprehension skills, and they're not quite reading yet either."

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