

Florida CELLA Information For Parents

What is the CELLA?

CELLA, the Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment, is a test for Florida students classified as English Language Learners (ELLs). CELLA measures ELLs' progress in listening, speaking, reading, and writing English language skills.

The CELLA has four (4) levels:

Level A for grades K–2,

Level B for grades 3–5,

Level C for grades 6–8, and

Level D for grades 9–12.

How often do ELLs take the CELLA?

ELLs take the CELLA annually until they are classified as English proficient.

How is the test given?

Kindergarten students are administered all four sections of the test, one-on-one with a teacher. Students in grades 1–12 take the speaking section of the test one-on-one with a teacher; the listening, reading, and writing sections are administered in a group setting.

How are the CELLA test scores used?

CELLA test scores

- provide teachers and parents with information about how well a student is progressing in the English language. The teacher uses this information to decide when the student is ready to exit out of the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program.
- provide information about how well schools and school districts are meeting the needs of ELLs.
- provide education agencies and the public with information about the English skills of ELLs and their progress each school year.

Tips to prepare your child for the CELLA

Your child learns English language skills every day. Here are some tips for helping your child learn more, and for helping your child on the CELLA test day.

Everyday tips

1. Make sure your child attends school regularly. The more your child is in school, the more likely he or she is to do well on tests.
2. Encourage your child's efforts to learn English and every other subject he or she studies in school. A student who feels supported by his or her family will learn and do well on tests.
3. Encourage your child to eat healthy foods. A child who is healthy and feels well is ready to work hard and learn in school.
4. Make sure your child does his or her homework every night. Homework supports classroom learning and gives your child extra practice using the English language.
5. Encourage your child to speak, read, and write in his or her heritage language. The skills needed to develop in one language will transfer to the other, resulting in increased comprehension and academic achievement in English.
6. Meet with your child's teacher often to discuss his or her progress. Parents and teachers should work together to help the student.
7. Make sure your child is well-rested every day. Tired children have trouble paying attention in school and they have trouble doing well on tests.

Tips for CELLA test day

1. Make sure your child is rested and has a healthy breakfast.
2. Make sure your child is dressed comfortably, and he or she arrives at school on time.
3. If your child wears glasses or a hearing aid, make sure he or she remembers to use them during the test.
4. If your child is supposed to receive any test-taking accommodations (for example, using a large-print version of the test), make sure he or she receives those accommodations.
5. Finally, encourage your child to relax. Too much emphasis on test scores can make children nervous, which makes it harder for them to do their best work on the test.

