



The Education Trust–West

Fierce advocates for educational
justice, pre-k through college.

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Senator Josh Newman
Chair, Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chair Newman,

RE: Support for AB 2268 (Muratsuchi)

As an organization committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in California's education system, EdTrust–West (ETW) is pleased to support AB 2268 (Muratsuchi), which would exempt transitional kindergarten (TK) students from the administration of the English Language Proficiency Assessment of California (ELPAC).

California law requires the ELPAC to be administered to students in grades kindergarten through 12. Further, California law defines TK as the first year of a two-year kindergarten program, thereby subjecting TK students to the initial and summative ELPAC. Specifically, AB 2268 excludes TK from the definition of kindergarten for purposes of the ELPAC, which is not a developmentally appropriate measure of English language proficiency for the increasing younger population of four-year-olds who are being served through the expansion of TK. As the state moves towards universal TK by the 2025-26 school year, it becomes imperative for California to reassess the appropriateness of administering the ELPAC to this age group.

When the ELPAC was developed and field tested, it was not developed nor tested with the younger TK population enrolled in California public schools. Therefore, administering it to current TK students could lead to potential misidentification of English learners, negatively impacting their educational experience. Moreover, it may necessitate local educational agencies to provide services and supports that are inappropriate and unnecessary for these students.

AB 2268 would protect the state's youngest emergent bilingual students by ensuring they are not negatively impacted by the administration of an assessment ill-suited for their developmental stage.

It is for these reasons that we strongly support AB 2268 (Muratsuchi) and respectfully ask for an AYE vote.

Sincerely,

Brian Rivas
Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations

cc: Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
Members of the Senate Education Committee
Lynn Lorber, Chief Consultant, Senate Education Committee