

# ELPAC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Parents and Guardians



## What is an ELPAC?

An ELPAC is an **English Learner Parent Advisory Council**. ELPAC members are parents and guardians of current and former ELs (English Learners). ELPACs meet regularly and can give schools and districts advice on topics that are important to ELs. ELPACs can also help parents of ELs learn more about their children's school and learn ways to support their children's education.



## Why are ELPACs important?

ELPACs can help create a strong partnership between schools and the families of ELs. In Massachusetts schools, ELs can learn English and succeed in school while keeping their unique cultural and linguistic identities. By joining an ELPAC, you can help your children achieve this goal.

## Who can join an ELPAC?

Parents and guardians of current and former ELs are welcome to join ELPACs.



## Do I have to be fluent in English to participate in an ELPAC?

No! ELPAC members come from diverse backgrounds and speak many different languages. Your school's ELPAC may offer interpretation during ELPAC meetings.

## Who leads an ELPAC?

The goal is for each ELPAC to be led by parents because schools want ELPACs to be a voice for parents and ELs. Even though parents will be the leaders of ELPACs, they will have support from their schools in scheduling meetings and planning activities.



## What do ELPACs do?

ELPACs talk about topics that are important to ELs and give schools advice to make services for ELs better, communicate effectively with EL families, and create programs and opportunities that will help ELs be successful. We recommend that you watch the course ELPACs for Parents to learn more about what your ELPAC can do in your school and community.