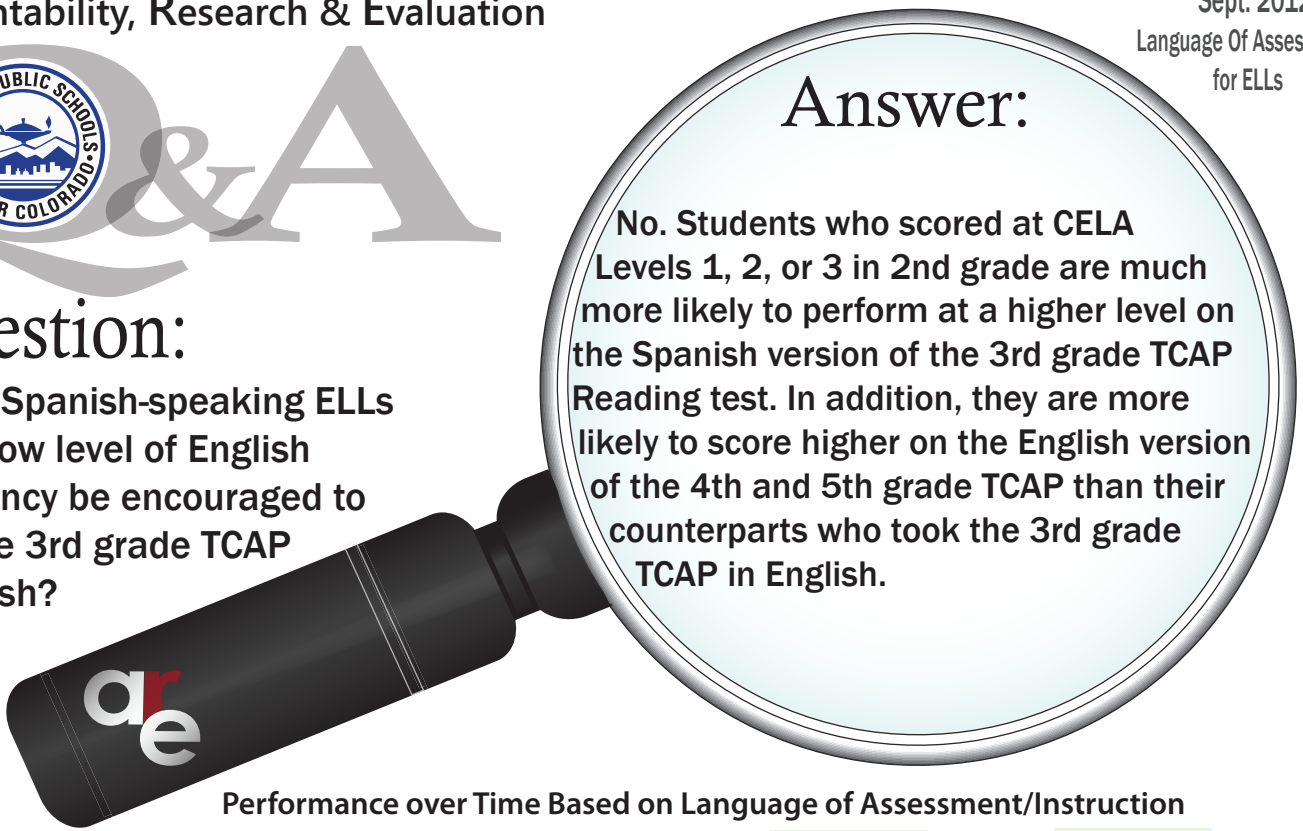




# Question:

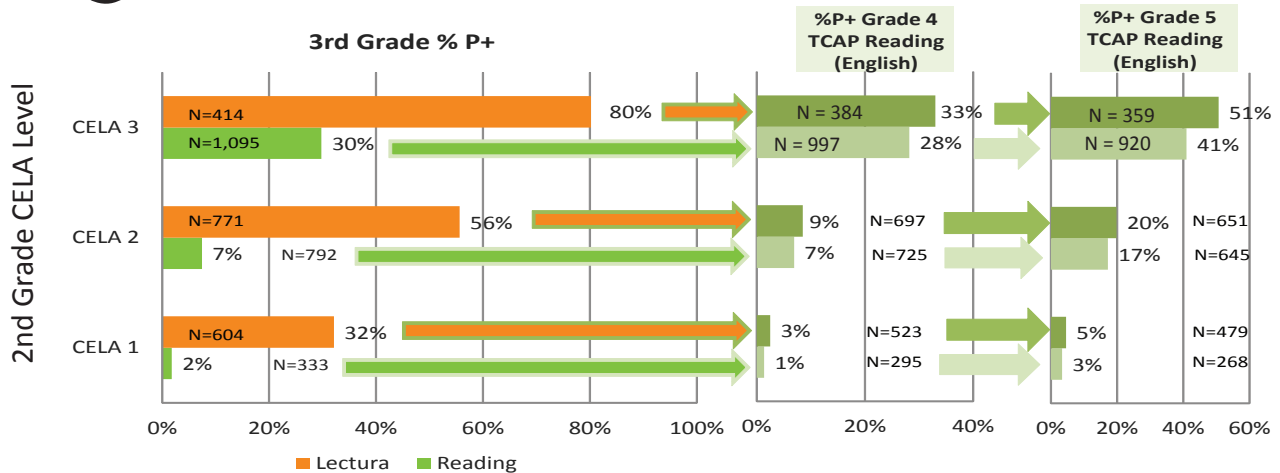
Should Spanish-speaking ELLs with a low level of English proficiency be encouraged to take the 3rd grade TCAP in English?



# Answer:

No. Students who scored at CELA Levels 1, 2, or 3 in 2nd grade are much more likely to perform at a higher level on the Spanish version of the 3rd grade TCAP Reading test. In addition, they are more likely to score higher on the English version of the 4th and 5th grade TCAP than their counterparts who took the 3rd grade TCAP in English.

Performance over Time Based on Language of Assessment/Instruction



Note: ELLs who were in 2nd grade in either 2006-07, 2007-08, or 2008-09 and took CELA were combined into one cohort and tracked forward to 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Students opted out of ELA services by their parents were not included in the population.

### Dispelling SPF Myths:

ELLs who take the TCAP Lectura in 3rd Grade, rather than the TCAP Reading, are more likely to have a positive impact on SPF scores: TCAP Lectura scores count toward both DPS and state SPF Status measures as much as TCAP Reading scores. Students who take the TCAP Lectura in 3rd Grade are removed from DPS and state SPF growth measures in 4th Grade (i.e., they do not count against a school). Additionally, DPS data show that students who scored at CELA Levels 1 – 3 in 2nd grade and took the 3rd grade TCAP in English showed lower than typical (50th percentile) growth in 4th grade.

### Guidelines for Making Decisions about Language of Assessment:

Decisions regarding the language of assessment should be made based on a body of evidence and in accordance with what is best for the student. Students qualify for the Lectura/Escritura and/or the Oral Translation accommodation if: (1) The student has been enrolled in a Colorado Public School for **less than three continuous years in first grade or later** and (2) The student has been receiving native language instruction within the last 9 months.

Note: The assumption is that for these students instruction/language supports continued in Spanish. The language of the test is not the cause of higher scores for these students; rather, the appropriate test allows for accurate measurement of student achievement.