



**To:** K-12 Educators in ELPA21 States

**From:** American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the ELPA21 Consortium

**Date:** February 16, 2017

**Re:** ELPA21 Screener Pilot Study Recruitment

In preparation for the launch of the ELPA21 Operational Screener, the ELPA21 consortium is partnering with its vendor, American Institutes for Research (AIR), to conduct a pilot study of the ELPA21 Screener. We are looking to gain crucial insights that will inform the improvements we make to the ELPA21 assessment system in order to best serve English language learners. We would like to extend an invitation to you and your students to participate in this exciting opportunity!

Benefits of participating in the pilot of the ELPA21 Screener include:

- Early experience for Test Administrators to experience the online screener
- Advance understanding of the time requirements for the new screener process
- Critical information to the test designers about when and at which point(s) early stopping rules may be developed
- Opportunity to provide feedback for the final screener test forms

Oregon's Screener Pilot Study test window will run from February 21 to May 31, 2017. Early participation is encouraged. Remember that the ELPA21 screener is an online assessment. Students will need to have a computer for testing, and the Test Administrator will need a separate device in order to run the testing session with the student.

Below are the various populations of students who we hope to include in this pilot:

- New, potential ELLs arriving during the Pilot Study test window. Please note that these students should still be administered the operational (commercial) screener currently in use in your school district; student-level results from the ELPA21 Pilot Study will not be reported or available for use in making eligibility/proficiency determinations
- Students who were screened during SY2016-17, regardless of result (whether classified as **Initial Fluent English Proficient** or not)
- Any incoming Kindergarten student (who will begin Kindergarten in SY2017-2018) who is registered for Kindergarten during the Pilot Study window (note that these students are eligible to participate in the screener regardless of whether they are considered a potential English Language Learner or not, based on home language survey)
- Newly enrolled students who are English Only (per their Home Language Survey)

- **Fluent English Proficient** students reclassified within the last two years (SY 2015-16 through the first months of 2016-17)

If you are interested in participating in the pilot and will have students that fall into one or more of the categories noted above, please complete a brief registration form, which can be accessed by clicking the link below. Each Test Administrator will be asked to complete two surveys after a screener test is submitted. First, an “exit survey” in which the Test Administrator provides information about the student’s use of technology, the practice test, and more. Then approximately a week after the exit survey, a data collection survey link will be sent to the Test Administrator, asking for additional information about the student’s English language proficiency (If the Test Administrator does not have direct knowledge of the student’s English proficiency, the Test Administrator is encouraged to coordinate with others in the district who would be able to provide the needed information). Training and more information is provided about these surveys after registration for the pilot is complete.

For each Screener Pilot Test Administrator, there is an opportunity for incentives! ELPA21 would like to offer a reward opportunity for the Test Administrators for their per-student participation in this pilot, with one prize per grade. Information about the incentives will be provided during the Screener Pilot training. In addition, the Oregon Department of Education will award professional development units (PDUs) to all Test Administrators. Contact Renée LeDoux ([renee.ledoux@ode.state.or.us](mailto:renee.ledoux@ode.state.or.us)) for more information.

### [ELPA21 Screener Pilot Test Administrator Registration Form](#)

Please note that the survey asks for the name and email address of your District Test Coordinator. Please be sure to have that information available prior to starting the registration survey.

Details about Test Administrator training for the ELPA21 Screener Pilot will be sent to those educators who express interest in participating in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Renée LeDoux ([renee.ledoux@ode.state.or.us](mailto:renee.ledoux@ode.state.or.us)).

Thank you in advance for playing a crucial role in the development of our assessment system for English language learners.