

# Alt ELPA Informational Webinar Q&A

January 5 and 6, 2023

## Training and Preparation

- 1. Do the TAs need to be licensed to administer the Alt ELPA?**
  - a. Yes. Specifically, the TA needs a license issued by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC). This aligns with requirements for administering other alternate assessments in Oregon (the Oregon Extended assessments).
- 2. Do Alt ELPA TAs need to be trained on the OR Extended assessment as well? What about Alt ELPA second scorers?**
  - a. Both TAs and second scorers must complete all required Alt ELPA training (regardless of any training they may or may not have completed for the OR Extended).
- 3. Language used to describe the vendor-created slides in the Alt ELPA User Guide makes them sound required. Are they a required training material?**
  - a. No. The vendor-created slides are highly recommended, but not required.
- 4. Do alt ELPA TAs also sign the assurance security test form?**
  - a. Yes. Every adult who will interact with testing material or testing students needs to complete an assurance of test security form.
- 5. Will there be an ODE training for Alt ELPA TAs or is it up to DTC to train staff?**
  - a. Alt ELPA TA training requirements are outlined in [Test Administration Manual](#) (section 1.5). The majority of training requirements for Alt ELPA TAs are the same as training requirements for all other TAs. So, Alt ELPA TAs should participate in the same TA district training. The additional Alt ELPA specific requirement is to read the Alt ELPA User Guide. DTCs may determine what mechanism to ensure that TAs have read the Alt ELPA User Guide.

## Administration

- 6. Are domain exemptions guidelines the same for Alt ELPA as for ELPA summative?**
  - a. Domain exemption guidelines are the same for the Alt-ELPA and ELPA summative. [Domain Exemptions on ELPA: Definitions and Examples](#) applies to both assessments. When making domain exemption decisions, IEP teams should carefully consider whether the new Alt-ELPA will allow the student to be assessed in domains where the ELPA summative previously did not.
- 7. If a student had a domain exemption in place for the ELPA Summative, will it be the same for the Alt ELPA?**
  - a. Not necessarily. IEP teams should revisit the domain exemption guidance and consider previous exemptions in respect to the nature of the new Alt ELPA.
- 8. Will the system automatically exclude exempted domains?**
  - a. Yes. If a domain is exempted, it will not be visible in the student's test selection screen.

- b. (**Note:** this is an update to previous guidance, where we indicated that exempted domains would need to be manually excluded.)
- 9. Does testing in an exempted domain constitute a testing impropriety?**
- a. Yes. This is case on Alt ELPA just as it would be on other statewide assessments.
- 10. Does the early stop rule apply to a single domain test, or the entire Alt ELPA?**
- a. If the early stop rule applies, stop testing altogether. Do not administer further domains.
- 11. Is full screen mode a designated support or an accommodation?**
- a. Full screed mode is an embedded designated support for the Alt ELPA. Once the test delivery system vendor has finished configuration we will release an Oregon Accessibility Manual update that will indicate this.

## Eligibility and Student Participation

- 12. Is an identification of intellectual disability or other Special Ed designation enough to qualify for participation in the Alt ELPA?**
- a. No. Eligibility for participation in Alt ELPA specifically hinges on two factors:
    - i. Having EL status
    - ii. Experiencing a most significant cognitive disability
  - b. A “most significant cognitive disability” is qualitatively different from other special education designations, such as intellectual disability. “Most significant cognitive disability” is defined in Alt ELPA materials such as the [Alt ELPA Decision Making Resource](#).
- 13. What does it mean to say that "Participation in alt ELPA It marks a permanent shift in the student’s educational trajectory"?**
- a. Because the participation requirements for the Alt ELPA and OR Extended assessments overlap, designating a student as eligible to participate in the Alt ELPA has several downstream consequences:
    - i. It puts the student on track for a Modified diploma
    - ii. It indicates that the student will need to be instructed according to modified standards
    - iii. If the decision is made in grades K-2, it “automatically” sets a student on course to take the OR Extended assessments
  - b. This decision should not be taken lightly. It has significant and potentially lifelong educational, social, and emotional impacts for the student, their family, and others.
- 14. What are your suggestions for IEPs which need amending shortly before or even during the Alt ELPA test window?**
- a. Districts should gauge the time remaining in the Alt ELPA window. If the amendment process leaves insufficient time in the Alt ELPA window to appropriately and equitably administer all non-exempt domains of the Alt ELPA, do not try to rush the process. Instead, administer the ELPA Summative this year and fully complete the IEP amendment process in time for the following year’s Alt ELPA.

- 15. How does one indicate Alt-ELPA participation on the student’s IEP?**
- a. IEP documentation guidance is included in the [Alt ELPA Decision Making Resource](#) document. This document can be found on [ODE’s English Language Proficiency Assessment page](#) under the Alt ELPA Guidance section.
- 16. What happens if the IEP cannot be amended early enough in the test window? Should we go ahead and administer the Alt ELPA, and update the IEP afterwards?**
- a. The IEP plan is a legally binding document. Administer the test indicated in the student’s IEP plan. This means that if the IEP cannot be amended in a timely manner, the student will need to participate in the ELPA Summative.
- 17. If a student is eligible to take the Alt ELPA, do they have to take the ORExt too?**
- a. The criteria for the Alt ELPA and OR Extended assessments overlap. If a student qualifies for one, and they happen to be in a grade where both tests are offered, then by definition they will be eligible for the other as well.
- 18. Does the student need to complete the ELPA Screener before taking the Alt ELPA?**
- a. Yes. Only students with EL status are eligible to participate in the Alt ELPA. The ELPA Screener is OR’s tool for confirming EL status. If an ELPA Screener has not been completed, we do not know the student’s EL status and therefore cannot confirm eligibility for participation in Alt ELPA.

## Calibration

- 19. Can TAs calibrate ahead of time using the practice tests?**
- a. No, the sample test is not robust enough to serve as a calibrating tool. Also, there is no sample student performance included in the sample test.
- 20. How will DTCs “track” calibration? What process must they follow?**
- b. Districts may choose the most efficient method for tracking TA calibration. ODE will be asking DTCs for the following information:
    - i. Number of Speaking tests administered by each TA
    - ii. Number of those Speaking tests that were observed by a second scorer
    - iii. Number of Writing tests administered by each TA
    - iv. Number of those Writing tests that were observed by a second scorer
- 21. Does a TA need to be calibrated before they can calibrate other TAs?**
- c. A licensed educator who has completed all required Alt ELPA training can serve as a second scorer. That means that two TAs could serve as second scorers for each other. Being calibrated is not a requirement to be a second scorer.
- 22. If recalibration is needed, will the student also need to retest?**
- d. No. Recalibration is for the TA and second scorer, not the student.
- 23. Will the expectation for DTCs to provide info on calibration to ODE be shared in a DTC webinar or A&A Update?**
- e. This information was shared in the [12/14/22 DTC webinar](#). ODE will reiterate this request, together with the data submission method, in future communications.

## Miscellaneous

**24. Will there be translated materials for families so that we can explain this new test and the impact of choosing an extended assessment?**

- a. You can find all currently available translated materials for the Alt ELPA in the [Resources](#) section of the OSAS Portal.

Please contact [Mason Rivers](#) with questions or concerns regarding the Alt ELPA or OR Extended assessments.

Please contact [Ben Wolcott](#) with questions or concerns regarding the ELPA Summative and Screener.