

# 2024-25 Future K and Grade K ELPA Screener Updates

## 2024-25 Changes

### Grade K

- The Grade K ELPA Screener opened on January 9, 2024, with temporary, ODE-adjusted cut scores in all four domains.

### Future K

- The 2024-25 Future K ELPA Screener opened on March 1, 2024, with temporary, ODE-adjusted cut scores in the Writing domain.
- A Proficient profile for the 2024-25 Future K ELPA Screener must include a 3 or higher in all non-exempt Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking domains.

## Context and History

The English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Screener became available in OR in 2018-19. This test is used in tandem with the Oregon Language Use Survey (LUS) to determine which students meet the federal definition for English learner status, and consequently qualify for English language development services.

ODE and ELPA21 (the test vendor who develops the ELPA Screener) have been paying close attention to ELPA Screener testing data, particularly in the early grades. After examining test data from multiple years, analyzing the effects of previous changes to Future K and Grade K testing, and conducting linking studies to other measures of academic performance in Kindergarten, ODE concluded in 2023 that the evidence supported a change to both Future K and Grade K screening.

ODE began with temporary adjustments to scoring thresholds on both the Future K and Grade K ELPA Screeners, intended to reduce testing inequities for students while ODE pursues longer term solutions in partnership with ELPA21.

At the COSA Multilingual and Migrant Education Conference on March 7, 2024, ODE presented on its intention to conduct a live verification study at the following year's conference, for both the Future K and Grade K Screener. During the verification study, educators will review Screener items at the K level. Their input will be used to establish new, permanent cut scores for performance levels 1-5 in all four domains (Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking), which will take effect as soon as they can be incorporated into the test development cycle. This process will include review and approval by the Oregon State Board of Education.

ELPA21 also continues to monitor and adjust ELPA tests where appropriate. They will be reexamining the cut scores for the ELPA Summative across all grade bands. While this study focuses on the ELPA Summative, the information gathered may be found to have applicability for the Screener as well.

## Rationale

ODE receives information about its tests from multiple sources, such as internal testing data, state- and vendor-conducted studies, and qualitative reports from practitioners in schools across the state. In the case of the Future K and Grade K Screener tests, the data from all of these sources converged to support

the conclusion that, first, the ELPA Screener was measuring students against an overly rigorous standard, and, second, that previous changes were only partially effective in addressing this issue.

## Questions and Answers

1. Are there any changes planned for the Grade K ELPA Summative?
  - a. ODE currently has no changes to announce for cut scores or proficiency profiles on the ELPA Summative, in Grade K or any other grade band.
2. How can educators participate in the proposed Future K and Grade K verification study event?
  - a. ODE currently plans to schedule this even as a pre-conference session at the 2025 COSA Multilingual and English Learner Conference. Educators would participate by registering for this pre-conference session.
  - b. If it becomes clear that a different format is necessary, ODE will update educators through the usual communication channels.
  - c. In a previous version of this document, ODE used the term “standard setting”. This was changed to a verification study as that activity more closely matches the desired outcome (to verify and either retain or adjust temporary cut scores).
3. Did ODE consider removing the Reading and Writing domains entirely from the Future K and Grade K ELPA Screeners?
  - a. This issue was discussed. Federal guidance, disseminated in writing via the [2015 Dear Colleague Letter](#) (see pp. 10-11) and re-confirmed at events such as the February 2023 COSA EL Collaborative conference, clearly indicates that state ELP screening instruments must test all four domains of Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking (although the Dear Colleague Letter grants implicit approval for measurement of “pre-reading” and pre-writing”).
4. Are changes to ELPA test scoring retroactive?
  - a. No.

## Contact Information

Contact [Ben Wolcott](#), ELPA Specialist, with questions or concerns regarding ELPA testing.

Contact [Kim Miller](#), Title III Specialist, with questions regarding Title III and the EL data collection.