

Honoring Student Proficiency on the High School (HS) ELPA Summative

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Policy Summary

Beginning with tests taken in 2020-21, Oregon’s testing system will automatically “carry forward” Proficient performance in individual domains (i.e. Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking) of the Grade 9-12 English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Summative. Carried domains will be excluded on future tests, which will be rescored using the Proficient performance that was preserved for the carried domains.

Policy Rationale

Per the design of the ELPA Summative, students need to demonstrate proficiency on all four domains in the same year to score Proficient and exit EL status. For the Grade 9-12 ELPA Summative, the proficiency expectations and the item pool remain consistent throughout the grade band. In other words, Grades 9-12 feature variations on the same test.

This combination of factors means that some students taking the Grade 9-12 ELPA must demonstrate proficiency on the same content, according to the same standards, year after year. This is undesirable measurement practice and runs counter to ODE’s equity stance. Therefore, ODE has developed *Honoring Student Proficiency on the High School (HS) ELPA Summative*. As the title suggests, this policy combines what we know about good measurement with our ongoing effort to “rehumanize” assessment. This policy increases our collective ability to recognize and honor what students know and can do, while still safeguarding their civil right to receive appropriate English language proficiency instruction and services.

Student and Staff Overview

High school students who are eligible for this policy will experience a streamlined version of the test. When they score Proficient in one or more domains on the Grade 9-12 ELPA Summative, the system will note the Proficient performance and exclude those domains on future tests. The student will no longer see items from Proficient domains on the ELPA Summative. Once the student has obtained a Proficient score in all non-exempt domains (including carried and non-carried domains), they will receive an overall Proficient result on the ELPA Summative and will exit EL status.

Students may accumulate carried domains in any order and at any rate during Grades 9-12. Carried domains do not expire until a student exits EL status.

The testing system identifies eligible students and takes note of Proficient domains. District staff have no data entry, recording, or reporting responsibilities. However, students will likely need district staff to help explain the basics of the carrying policy and what it means for their testing. Students may request to test Proficient domains rather than having them excluded from future testing. Districts would inform

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their Regional ESD Partner of this choice, and the domain in question would be presented as in any other year.

Technical Details

The testing system will do some work behind the scenes to capture and implement domain carrying. The following list summarizes the major steps.

1. Student scores Proficient on one or more domains of a Grade 9-12 ELPA Summative test.
2. The Summative score is reported to ODE. The testing system captures the Proficient performance.
3. Carried domains are recorded in the student's profile in the Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE).
 - a. This will be recorded by domain in an attribute called "HS ELPA Domain Proficiency Met." District users can see this attribute, but cannot modify it.
4. For future ELPA Summative opportunities (usually beginning the following year), carried domains are excluded. The student does not see items from these domains.
 - a. The student should be informed that the Proficient domain will be excluded. The student should be offered the option to test on the Proficient domain if they wish to. This decision must be made prior to opening the Summative test.
 - b. If the student wishes to test on the carried domain, this decision must be communicated to your Regional ESD Partner so that the domain can be reactivated prior to opening the test. If the student does not wish to test on the carried domain, no action needs to be taken by the district.
 - c. If the student chooses to test on the carried domain, the new performance will overwrite the old performance. A Proficient result will be carried; a non-Proficient result means the domain will no longer be carried.
5. A preliminary score is reported to ODE (containing only non-carried, non-exempt domains).
6. The test is rescored using the student's captured performance. This allows the carried domain to interact with other domains (as would be the case in an administration with no carried domains).
 - a. If the student scores Proficient in **one or more domains** (but not all remaining domains), newly Proficient domains are added to the student's list of carried domains.
 - b. If the student scores Proficient in **all remaining domains**, the student exits EL status and all carried domains are removed from the student's profile in TIDE.

Monitoring

Each year on the Wednesday closest to December 15, ODE will inventory all students eligible for participation in Honoring Student Proficiency on the HS ELPA Summative. Districts should record all known domain exemptions prior to this date. Districts may still enter domain exemptions after this date; ODE will monitor exemptions entered for inventoried students after the inventory date. This should help

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reduce unnecessary test invalidations and provide ODE with supplementary information about the effectiveness of the policy for districts and students.

Timeline

August-November	Beginning of school year
December	Prior to mid-December: Districts fully enter <i>known</i> domain exemptions for students with carried domains On or near Dec. 15: ODE inventories students with one or more carried domains.
January	Prior to testing: notify Regional ESD Partner of students who wish to test on carried domains ELPA Summative window opens
February-June	Tests with carried domains are rescored as batches come in. Students scoring Proficient in all non-exempt domains as a result of the rescore exit EL status. Newly Proficient domains are carried forward for future testing.
(April)	ELPA Summative window closes
July	End of school year

Questions and Answers

- 1. Is “carrying proficient domain performance forward” the same as banking?**
 - The two are similar, but not identical. “Banking” simply saves scores, excludes Proficient domains, and leaves it at that. Carrying forward retains student item responses and rescores future tests using those saved responses. This maintains intended interactions between domains during scoring.
- 2. Can students carry domain performance from screening events (standard or unique screening)?**
 - No. The ELPA Screener draws from a different item bank and does not follow identical scoring rules to the Summative. There is no way to transfer a Proficient domain from the Screener to the Summative.
- 3. How is carrying signaled? How will students and staff know that a domain has been carried?**
 - Currently, there are two main ways to know that a domain is being carried forward.
 - Scoring Proficient (a 4 or 5) in a domain on the HS ELPA Summative means a domain will be carried. This is not currently made explicit on the Individual Student Report (ISR). We are considering how this might be communicated on the ISR.
 - Carried domains will also be signaled in TIDE via the HS ELPA Domain Proficiency Met attribute.

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- 4. Earlier in this policy description, it says that a student who chooses to retest in a Proficient domain will “overwrite” the old performance in that domain. What does that mean?**
 - This means that the previous results will be discarded and the new results will take their place. If the new results are Proficient, then those new results will be used to rescore the student’s test in future ELPA Summative opportunities. If the new results are not Proficient, then the domain will not be carried forward and the student will test again on the domain “from scratch” in future ELPA Summative opportunities.
- 5. How many students will be eligible for this policy?**
 - About 43% of the students who took the HS ELPA Summative in 2020-21 will be eligible to carry at least one domain forward. We do not yet know how that proportion may change in non-pandemic years.
- 6. What if a district feels the Proficient performance doesn’t represent the student’s true ability?**
 - Carrying domains is not subject to appeal.
 - Analysis of impact data from prior years indicates that this policy is very unlikely to yield increases in inappropriate exits.
 - Students who exit EL status enter monitoring status; this is true regardless of the presence or absence of carried domains. If a district determines that a student was exited inappropriately, and that significant language barriers are clearly present despite a Proficient result on the ELPA Summative, there are provisions for reentering those students into EL status.
- 7. How does this policy interact with domain exemptions?**
 - It is possible for a student to have both carried domains and domains that are exempted through a decision by the student’s IEP team. In such cases, the system excludes the domains indicated by the IEP team *and* domains that are being carried from previous years.
- 8. Will this policy be extended to other grades?**
 - Not at present. The performance expectations for proficiency rise from grade to grade, and the ELPA Summative item bank changes between grade bands. This means that the policy as formulated above cannot be applied in grades K-8 at this time.
- 9. Is this policy active in other ELPA21 states?**
 - To date, no other ELPA21 state has indicated an intention to carry domains forward on ELPA21.
 - This policy is based on scores that flow into ODE’s system. There is currently no way to transfer ELPA scores from other state data systems, so we do not expect to either send Proficient domain performances to, or receive them from, other states.
- 10. Does the mid-December monitoring inventory date mean that no exemptions can be entered after that date each year?**
 - There is no restriction on when districts can enter domain exemptions. Domain exemptions are not forbidden or subject to different rules after the inventory date.
 - The inventory date applies *only* to students who are eligible for participation in Honoring Student Proficiency on the HS ELPA Summative. After this date, ODE will

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monitor new domain exemptions. Specifically, this means ODE will contact districts who enter domain exemptions for students with carried domains, to gather information about the reason for the domain exemption.

- We hope this will allow ODE and districts to work together to reduce mistakes and prevent unnecessary test invalidations. It will also create a point of contact between ODE and districts, through which ODE will be able to gather qualitative data on the effectiveness of the policy and its impact on districts and students.

Please contact [Ben Wolcott](#), ODE's English Language Proficiency Assessment Specialist, with any questions or concerns.