# 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 complete scoring using the Proficient performance that was preserved for the carried domains.

## Policy Rationale

Per the design of the ELPA Summative, students need to score a 4 or higher 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 a 4 or higher in one or more domains on the Grade 9-12 ELPA Summative, the system will preserve student responses in those domains and incorporate them into future tests. This is referred to as "carrying" the domain(s) in question. The student will no longer see items from carried domains on the ELPA Summative. Once the student has obtained a score of 4 or higher 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 domains eligible for carrying. 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 carried domains rather than having them excluded from future testing. Districts would inform their Regional ESD Partner of this choice, and the domain in question would be presented as in any other year.

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## 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 4 or higher 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 student responses for the domain to be carried.
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.
   b. HS ELPA Domain Proficiency Met will populate in mid-December each year.
4. For the following year's ELPA Summative opportunity, and all following tests *in an unbroken sequence*, carried domains are not presented to the student.
   a. The student should be informed that carried domains will be excluded. The student should be offered the option to test on the carried domains if they wish to. This decision must be made prior to opening the Summative test.
   b. If the student wishes to test on one or more carried domains, 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 a carried domain, no action needs to be taken by the district.
   c. If the student chooses to test on a carried domain, the new performance will overwrite the old performance. Student performance scoring 4 or higher will contribute to a Proficient profile and is eligible to be carried; otherwise, the domain will no longer be carried.
   d. "In an unbroken sequence" means the student must test on the ELPA Summative every year to carry domains forward. If a student has non-exempt domains that should be tested in a given school year, but are not, no performance will be carried forward into the following year.
5. A preliminary score is reported to ODE (containing only non-carried, non-exempt domains).
6. The test completes scoring using the student's captured responses. 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 4 or higher in **one or more remaining domains** (but not all remaining domains), they are added to the student's list of carried domains.
   b. If the student scores 4 or higher in **all remaining domains**, the student exits EL status and all carried domains are removed from the student's profile in TIDE.

## Timeline

| August-November | Beginning of school year. |
|---|---|
| December | On or near Dec. 15: "HS Domain Proficiency Met" attribute in TIDE populates, |

| | signaling which students will be participating in this policy. |
|---|---|
| January | Prior to testing: notify Regional ESD Partner of students who wish to test on carried domains.<br>ELPA Summative window opens. |
| February-June | Tests with carried domains complete scoring as batches come in. Students scoring 4 or higher in all non-exempt domains as a result of the rescore exit EL status.<br>Newly eligible 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 banked domains, and leaves it at that. Carrying forward retains student item responses and scores future tests using those saved responses. This maintains intended interactions between domains during scoring.
2. **Can students carry domain performance from screening events?**
   - 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 domain performance 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 a 4 or higher 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.
4. **Earlier in this policy description, it says that a student who chooses to retest in a carried 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 performance results in a score of 4 or higher, then those new results will be used to complete scoring of the student's test in future ELPA Summative opportunities. If the new performance results in a score of 3 or lower, then the domain will not be carried forward and the student will test again on the domain "from scratch" in future ELPA Summative opportunities.

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5. **How many students will be eligible for this policy?**
   - To date, roughly 30% of the students who take the Grade 9-12 ELPA Summative are eligible to participate in this policy each year.

6. **What if a district feels that performance doesn't represent the student's true ability, and that a domain should not be carried?**
   - 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.
   - Remember that exemption decisions are made by IEP teams based on the impact of a disability. It is inappropriate to base an exemption decision on the presence or absence of carried domains, or the probable effect of the exemption on a student's chances of exiting EL status.

8. **Will this policy be extended to other grades?**
   - ODE intends to request extension of this policy into grades 6-8.

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 carried domain performances to, or receive them from, other states.

10. **What district action is required regarding the HS ELPA Domain Proficiency Met attribute in TIDE?**
    - Districts have no responsibilities regarding the HS ELPA Domain Proficiency Met attribute. It is present in TIDE for informational purposes only. The attribute cannot be modified by district-level users. This attribute updates annually in mid-December.

11. **One of our students scored a 4 in Listening in a prior year and carried that domain on this year's ELPA Summative. However, the student's final score report this year shows a 3 in Listening. How is that possible? Does this mean that Listening will no longer be carried for this student?**
    - On the adaptive ELPA Summative, domains influence each other. It is possible for performance in one domain to raise or lower the final score in another domain.

- Once carried, a domain remains carried until one of the following occurs:
    i. The student stops testing (due to exiting EL status, leaving school, etc.)
    ii. The student chooses to test again in the carried domain (in which case, the new domain performance will overwrite the old performance)

Please contact Ben Wolcott, ODE's English Language Proficiency Assessment Specialist, with any questions or concerns.