ELPA Screener Webinar Preliminary Q&A

Questions from informational webinar sessions delivered 8/19 and 8/20/20

Updated 8/20/20

Unique Use of ELPA Screener in Fall 2020

Is it always necessary to conduct unique screening with a Temporary ID?

Yes. Do not conduct unique screening using an SSID.

Standard Screening

Which is more important: to get an SSID for screening, or create a Temporary ID to screen as soon as possible?

It is most important to provide the student with appropriate services in a timely manner. If the student's SSID will be available soon enough to facilitate timely testing, wait. If not, test under a Temporary ID.

What does "non-participant" mean?

A "non-participant" is a student who is not meaningfully engaging with the test in any way. This should be rare; even a complete newcomer with no knowledge of English who repeats versions of "I don't know" for every question (or even a single question) counts as a participant.

Is it common or even likely for newcomers to be determined "non-participants"?

No. If there is a high rate of non-participation in your district, it is likely that TAs do not correctly understand the criteria for participation.

Must all instructions for the Screener be given in English, or can they be translated into other languages?

While it is not permitted to translate any test material, such as item stimuli or responses, it is permitted to interpret test instructions (and other user interface information such as warning boxes).

Accommodations, Supports, and Domain Exemptions

If a domain is exempted, does the student need to be assessed in that domain using another resource?

No. "Exempted" means it is not possible to assess proficiency in that domain. The student is not assessed in an exempted domain by any method.

Can a student be exempted in a domain one year but the following not be exempted?

Yes, this is possible.

Can parents accompany their children during screening to observe or lend emotional support?

Yes. Please contact Ben Wolcott for more details.

OREGON **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Oregon achieves . . . together!

What is an LEA?

LEA stands for Local Education Agency. SEA standards for State Education Agency. The US Department of Education uses these acronyms on a regular basis.

Do districts need an ODE representative to deliver, participate in, or witness training on administering the ELPA Screener? Where can that training be found?

No. Training is delivered locally, by district personnel. You can find required training materials on the Assessment Training Materials page.

Questions from informational webinar sessions delivered 6/30 and 6/4/20
Updated 8/20/20

Unique Use of ELPA Screener in Fall 2020

"Unique screening" means ODE's unique use of the ELPA Screener to make proficiency determinations for students with English learner status who did not complete the ELPA Summative in spring of 2020.

At which grade level should districts screen students participating in unique screening during fall of 2020?

The goal of unique screening is to determine whether students would still benefit from English language development services in the 2020-21 school year. Students should be screened at their enrolled grade for the 2020-21 school year. For example, a student who was scheduled to complete the Grade 4 ELPA Summative, and who will be entering Grade 5 in 2020-21, should be screened on the Grade 5 ELPA Screener.

Is unique screening required? In other words, does every student with English learner status who did not complete the ELPA Summative in spring 2020 need to complete the ELPA Screener in fall of 2020?

(Updated) Districts must make a good faith effort to screen eligible students.

Under revised metrics for in-person instruction, it will not be possible for some districts to screen all eligible students within the unique screening window. Districts will develop local criteria for screening order.

Is there any chance that students will be able to resume partially completed ELPA Summative tests?

No. Investigation revealed significant barriers at nearly every step of the process.

Some students will score Proficient during unique screening and no longer qualify for English language development services. Will those students enter a first year of monitoring in 2020-21?

(Updated) No. Official monitoring status is based on the spring data collection. Students who score Proficient during unique screening should be progress monitored during the 2020-21 school year, but they will not enter "official" monitoring status until 2021-22.

Will students participating in unique screening need to take the Summative in the spring of 2020-21?
If the student scores Not Proficient, they are an EL and will participate in the next available Summative testing opportunity.
If the student scores Proficient, they are not an EL and will not participate in further Summative testing.

A new student arrived in our district in March and took the full Screener, but did not complete the Summative. Can we simply use the Screener score from the March screening as the student's score for unique screening in fall 2020?
No. This student's English proficiency may well have changed in the intervening time. In addition, the student was screened according to their prior enrolled grade—we need to know if the student would benefit from English language development services in their current enrolled grade.

Kindergarten and Future K Screening

Both the Future K and the Kindergarten scoring profile are available until December 31 in 2020. Which profile is used for newly enrolling Kindergarten students?
All students enrolling in Kindergarten should use the Future K profile.

To be clear, does that include students enrolling in Kindergarten even after the beginning of the school year? Such students are not normally considered "Future K" students.
Yes, that includes all students entering Kindergarten until December 31.

Is this a requirement or a recommendation?
There is currently no enforcement mechanism in place to ensure that all entering Kindergarten students are screened under the Future K profile. However, inconsistent screening of Grade K students (some under the K profile, some under the Future K profile) raises significant equity concerns and ODE strongly recommends that all districts follow the procedure above.

If Oregon had used something like the "3-3-3-3" rule in 2019-20, what percentage of Kindergarten students would have scored Proficient? What about Future K students?
In 2019-20, roughly 2% of students tested under the Future K profile scored Proficient. Under the 3-3-3-3 profile, roughly 5% would have scored Proficient. Very few students were tested under the Future K profile in 2019-20, so these numbers should be taken with great caution.

In 2019-20, roughly 1% of students tested under the Kindergarten profile scored Proficient. Under the 3-3-3-3 profile, roughly 4% would have scored Proficient.

Note that because the Screener was no longer available after March 13, 2020, some students who normally would have been screened are not represented in these numbers.

Temporary ID and SSID

If a student takes the Screener under a Temporary ID, is it possible to take another Screener with their SSID? What about their District or local ID?
For an SSID, yes. If a Temporary ID is not merged with an SSID, then a student's single opportunity to screen under their SSID remains available.

Keep in mind that it is preferable to screen newly enrolling students under an SSID whenever possible. If an error or impropriety occurs, it is preferable to report the impropriety and reopen or reset the existing Screener rather than have the student rescreen from scratch.

It is not possible to screen under a district or local ID.

Could districts create an empty "demo" Temporary ID for the purposes of TA training?
No, this is strongly discouraged by both ELPA21 and ODE. Among other issues, this raises test security concerns and pollutes screening data pools with fake data.

Accommodations, Supports, and Domain Exemptions

If a student had a domain exemption on their IEP, but new guidance indicates that exemption is no longer appropriate, does the IEP need to be changed prior to unique screening in the fall?
Best practice would indicate that the student should be tested under the most appropriate and up-to-date version of the IEP plan possible. The domain exemption guidance referenced in the webinar was written prior to the COVID pandemic and related school closures; it does not contain any reference to unique screening in fall of 2020. We ask that districts make a good faith effort to test students with appropriate domain exemptions as the COVID-impacted environment will allow.

Miscellaneous

For people new to the Screener, is there training on how to administer it?
Yes. On the Assessment Training Materials page, under 2019-20 Modules, you will find both the ELPA Screener Administration Manual and the ELPA Screener Administration Module. Both of these required resources provide administration information suitable for people new to their role.

Are there any plans for TAs to be able to review student responses from the TA computer, rather than the student's computer?
ELPA21 confirms that this portion of the test is under review, but any enhancements like the one mentioned above are two years out at best.

If new task types are added to the Screener, will those task types be added to the ELPA test specifications?
The ELPA test specifications cover both the Summative and the Screener. New task types which appear exclusively on the Screener will be added to the specifications as information becomes available.

OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
Oregon achieves . . . together!

Is there ever a case where a student who was once ELD but has since exited be tested on the Screener?
Yes. The most common case would be a student who is in monitoring status.

There are other possible scenarios, although they would be extremely rare. Districts who believe they are dealing with such a case should contact ODE.

What about the other way around? Is there ever a case where a student would be considered initially Proficient but then eligible for screening?
Yes. One possible example would be American Indian / Alaska Native students.

This should also be quite rare. Districts who believe they may be dealing with such a case should contact ODE.

Can the Screener be paused and taken over multiple days?
Yes. However, be aware that after 7 calendar days, the Screener will auto-submit.

Can districts accept Proficiency determinations based on ELP screener or summative scores from students who tested in other states?
If those students come from ELPA21 states, then they were tested on the same standards and cut scores as Oregon's assessment. Proficiency determinations from those states may be accepted as is by districts. The ELPA21 states are: AR, IA, LA, NE, OH, OR, WA, WV.

If those students are arriving from non-ELPA21 states, then they were tested on different standards and cut scores than Oregon's assessment. They will need to be screened.

For cases where the district is in doubt about whether this general guideline applies, please contact ODE.

All screening begins with a 1-to-1 component. Where can we find guidance on health and safety precautions for screening in a COVID-impacted environment?
(Updated) This guidance has been incorporated into Administering the ELPA Screener and Summative in 2020-21.