

Private School Participation in English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) Testing



General Information

A private school's participation in English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) testing, including use of the ELPA Screener and Summative, depends on its participation in Title III. The following guidance covers both required and voluntary private schools participation in ELPA testing.

Private schools who are participating in Title III must satisfy associated federal requirements. In the case of English learner status, this would mean OR's codified screening and testing procedures. Private schools who are not participating in Title III are not required to engage in ELPA testing, but they may request to do so. This request is made to the hosting district, not ODE or its Regional ESD Partners. Decisions about granting such requests, as well as if or how to provide the necessary support to implement requested testing, lie with the hosting district, not ODE or its Regional ESD Partners.

For private schools who will participate in ELPA Screener and Summative testing, there are several possible approaches. Some examples would include:

- Private school personnel could receive training and test on site.
- The hosting district could send trained personnel to test at the private school.
- Testing could take place at hosting district facilities with district personnel.

The exact implementation scheme (including whether the district agrees to help implement at all, in the case of voluntary participation) is subject to negotiation between the private school and the hosting district (usually settled during consultation). ODE and Regional ESD Partners can provide context and policy clarification, but do not directly participate in private school consultations.

Some technical requirements for administering the ELPA (to be settled by private school and hosting district):

- Administering personnel need Test Administrator permissions in TIDE (and consequently supervision by someone with DTC permissions).
- Administering personnel need appropriate training.
- Students taking the ELPA Summative need a profile in TIDE (which means they need an SSID); the ELPA Screener can be taken under a Temporary ID, but the student is going to need an SSID sooner or later for the Summative anyway.
- The testing environment must meet the necessary qualifications in the TAM, as well as other applicable requirements.
 - For example, in 2020-21, the testing environment would need to meet the health and safety requirements in Ready Schools, Safe Learners.

Testing conversations between the district and private school should cover responsibilities beyond training and testing. For example, a private school may have trained Test Administrators on site, but they will still need to contact the DTC to report testing improprieties.

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Questions and Answers

Q: Is the hosting district responsible for providing training to private school staff?

A: ODE neither forbids nor requires the hosting district to supply training. This is part of the consultation process.

Q: Can a private school use off-the-shelf screeners, like the IPT?

A: If the private school is not participating in Title III, it is not required to adhere to associated federal ELP testing requirements. Such a private school may use off-the-shelf screeners, such as the IPT.

Q: What about students who are already identified as English learners? How are they assessed each year?

A: The requirement to assess English learners yearly on their English proficiency is a federal requirement. Private schools who are not participating in Title III may choose whether to assess students with EL status yearly, and which instrument to use.

Q: If a private school is accepting federal funds and must use the ELPA, who pays for that?

A: This is part of the consultation process. ODE and Regional ESD Partners do not directly participate in this conversation.

Private schools can opt to participate in Title III; however, it is important to note that a private school may never receive funds directly. The hosting district is the fiscal agent and remains responsible for providing services (either through the district or through a 3rd party contract).

Q: Who is responsible for investigating and reporting testing improprieties?

A: The district DTC is responsible for filing testing impropriety reports based on information provided by the private school. The impropriety report should contain contact information for the personnel with the most direct experience of the impropriety event, whether from the district or private school, so that ODE can contact this person directly for additional context or suggested remedies. The district is not obligated to verify information provided by private schools, but may choose to investigate testing improprieties for various reasons (such as improving training, identifying a source of miscommunication, etc.).

Questions specific to 2020-21

Q: What if the district is entirely in distance learning but the private school is not?

A: [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#) indicates that private schools have their own operational blueprints for 2020-21. Therefore, any testing sponsored or conducted by the private school would need to comply with the school's operational blueprint (as well as general health and

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safety regulations). If the private school is not delivering instruction through CDL, then [Limited In-Person Instruction](#) guidance does not apply. Testing which takes place on district property would need to comply with the district's operational blueprint; since the district is delivering instruction through CDL, Limited In-Person Instruction guidance would apply.

Health and safety requirements, like those in Ready Schools, Safe Learners, are intended to minimize the potential for cross-contamination and spread of infection. To maximize health and safety, and minimize possible confusion about whose operational blueprint applies, the district may choose to restrict its involvement even if it chooses to support implementation (for example, avoid direct contact between district personnel and private school personnel/students, avoid testing on district property, etc.). Again, these details are settled in conversations between the district and private school.

Contact Information

For questions about assessment, including the ELPA, contact [Ben Wolcott](#).

For questions about Title III or English learner data collection and reporting, contact [Kim Miller](#).

For questions about private schools and consultation, contact [Joni Gilles](#).