

Executive Numbered Memo 005-2005-06 - Oregon's New English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)

September 15, 2005

TO: All School District Superintendents, Principals, and School District Staff

RE: Oregon's New English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)

As part of compliance with NCLB, Oregon has been developing an English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) to be used statewide to annually report progress in the acquisition of the English language. The Oregon Department of Education is committed to delivering valid and reliable assessments and is very interested in receiving your input on any issues relative to ELP assessment which may arise from your perspective. We will continue to look for additional flexibility from the federal government.

The new ELPA will:

- Use a web-based delivery system
- Be used to test every Limited English Proficient (LEP) students in grades K-12 as part of Oregon's Statewide Assessment system. (See the previous Executive Numbered Memo, 001-2003-04)
- Be available in April 2006
- Be used to report on the state's Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for 2005-06

Districts will not need to continue their current measures of proficiency to fulfill the AMAOs obligation. Districts will likely need to continue to use their current measures of proficiency as part of their LEP identification process and exiting process.

LEP Collection:

- ODE will continue the collection. It will open annually in May and will be due in July.
- The collection will be used to determine the LEP subgroup for AYP purposes. Students who are not submitted in this collection will not be counted as part of the LEP subgroup
- The collection will include:
 - The first date of LEP identification in a U.S school for each LEP student. This information will be "pre-loaded" if it has been previously submitted for a student.
 - The date each student was reclassified from Limited English Proficient status to fluent English proficient.. Exited students will be counted as part of the LEP subgroup for the two years following the exit date.

Identification of new students as LEP:

- Districts will continue to use their current English proficiency assessment instruments to identify whether the student is eligible for services in the district's English language development programs.
- All students who are then identified as LEP will take the ELPA at least annually until the district determines that the student has acquired the English proficiency needed to be successful in regular education programs. (ELPA may be part of the district's criteria for that determination).

Exiting students:

- Districts must use their current assessment for exiting students in 05-06 because ELPA test data will not be available until August 2006.
- Exited students will not take the ELPA again unless the student is re-entered into the district's English language development program.
- If a student is re-designated as Limited English Proficient, the student's duration in the district's English language development program will be based on the original start date, not the date returning to the ELD program.

For the latest updates about assessment development, go to the [Assessment Development webpage](#).

Please contact Elaine Hultengren or Carmen West with your questions or concerns.