

Executive Numbered Memo 016-2005-06 - Requirements for English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)

January 17, 2006

TO: District Superintendents

RE: Requirements for English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)

Background:

On December 14, 2005, ODE met with representatives from the largest districts to discuss issues around the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). Although Oregon is required to produce Annual Measures of Achievement Objectives (AMAO's) for districts, the educational enterprise should consider the pragmatic and logistic issues facing districts including:

- Consideration of the pressure on technical infrastructure and human resources requirements of administering ELPA, TESA and computers for instruction
- The need to improve ELL teachers' readiness to apply the new ELP standards and to use the ELPA
- The best practice of holding districts accountable after performance standards have been set
- The need to use a statewide assessment for determining the progress and proficiency of ELL students acquiring English

Follow-up:

To deal with these issues, we agreed to the following actions:

- ODE will inform the USED that the Spring 2006 window be treated as a "field test of the test" and:
- ODE will use the commercial tests to calculate AMAOs for districts between the 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years.
- Districts will need to determine progress and proficiency for each student

To accomplish this plan, districts must complete the following:

- Test 100% of ELL students for English Language Proficiency with 50% of their ELL students via the ELPA and 50% of their ELL students with the commercial test previously administered by district. Students will be randomly selected.
- Districts with fewer than 10 ELL students will double test, administering both the ELPA and the commercial test previously administered by the district.

Unless a district makes a written request for an exception, **ODE will require the following sampling strategy:**

- All ELL students with an "Even" SSID number take the ELPA (Even=ELPA).
- All ELL students with an "Odd" SSID number take the commercial test previously administered by district.

Requests for exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must meet the following criteria:

- Meet technical standards for random sampling and contribute to an overall statewide sound methodology

- In case ODE is required to compute AMAOs using 2005-06 ELPA data as the baseline, alternative sampling plans must include both commercial and ELPA tests
- Must be sent to ODE no later than February 1, 2006. Please email requests to Sabrina Ganoë.