
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT)

General

1. Who is an EL student?

- Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English can be considered English Learners (ELs).
- To identify if a student is an EL:
 - The school should provide a Home Language Survey (HLS) to all parents as part of the registration process.
 - If a language other than English is listed on the HLS, the student should be given an English language proficiency screener. The screener will determine if the student is proficient in English.
 - If the student is not proficient in English, parents should receive a notification letter from the school/LEA that indicates the student's EL status. This student will be identified as EL until s/he exits the program.

2. A student has failed the screener and is considered EL. What do we do next?

Within 30 days of a student registering, the school must assess and inform the student's parent/guardian(s) of the details of the program in which the student is, or will be participating, as described in [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#). A sample parental notification form can be found in the LDOE library.

3. Do EL students take state assessments?

- All EL students must take the appropriate state assessments for their enrolled grade and shall take the ELPT annually.
- EL students may qualify for accommodations, provided they are used in students' regular classroom instruction and assessment.
- EL students who have not been enrolled in a school in the United States for one full school year will not have their scores included in the school performance score calculations, but they must take the required assessment.
- EL students are part of a school's subgroup that will be evaluated separately on ELA and math.

4. Are there funds and/or other resources available to assist with EL services?

- If an LEA meets eligibility requirements, they may qualify for Title III funding. Federal Title III funding is used to improve student achievement among students who are learning English as a second language.
- Title I funds may be used for instructional programs, materials, supplies, and activities required for serving EL students.

- Additional resources to assist with provision of EL services:

[Limited English Proficiency FAQ](#)
[LEP Fact Sheet \(Office of Civil Rights\)](#)
[Sample Home Language Survey](#)
[EL Accommodation Plan](#)

For more information about EL and/or Title III funding, contact Melanie Mayeux at the Louisiana Department of Education: melanie.mayeux@la.gov.

ELPT

1. What is ELPT?

ELPT stands for the English Language Proficiency Test. It is a computer-based assessment that draws upon emerging technologies and innovative methods to assess a student's language ability. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the ELPT will be administered instead of the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA). Additional information about the test can be found in the [ELPT Assessment Guide](#).

2. Who takes ELPT?

Students who take ELPT are those who are enrolled in K-12 and have been identified as an English Learners (EL). Identification is made according to a specific set of participation criteria as is described in the [English Language Learner Handbook](#). All EL students must take ELPT even if they have chosen to refuse services from their school's EL specialist.

Students take the ELPT until they achieve proficiency.

3. What grades are tested?

Students are tested by grade band. Grade bands include K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

4. What domains are tested?

Listening, speaking, reading, and writing are tested in **all** grades.

5. What exactly does the assessment measure?

The ELPT measures a student's language proficiency relative to the [Louisiana Connectors for English Learners](#). The test presents students with a variety of performance tasks and questions in each of the language domains.

6. How is proficiency determined?

After taking the ELPT, a student receives scores in the four tested domains as well as one for comprehension (combination of reading and listening). Each language domain score equates to an achievement level. The achievement levels create a profile which is used to determine if the student is **Emerging**, **Progressing** or **Proficient**.

To achieve "Proficient" the student should receive Level 4s and Level 5s in each of their domains. More information about achievement levels and proficiency can be found in the [Achievement Level Descriptors ELPT K-12](#).

7. How is the test administered?

Students taking the ELPT utilize an online platform to interact with content and to submit their answers. The way each answer is entered depends on the item type (e.g., selected response, drag and drop, spoken response, etc.). Each domain is tested separately, and all sessions are untimed.

Tests are administered according to grade band and in the order of the domains: listening, reading, writing, speaking. A school may choose to administer one or two domains a day to a group of students. More information will be available in the forthcoming *Test Administrator Manual*.

8. Will the student be able to receive accommodations on the ELPT?

This depends on the kind of accommodations. Accommodations are a change in the test administration environment, timing, scheduling, presentation format, and/or method of response to the assessment. Accommodations are for students for whom there is documentation of need on an IEP or 504 accommodation plan, so that these students show what they know and can do on the ELPT.

Test accommodations provided to students on other statewide assessments due to limited English proficiency are **not allowed** on ELPT. Such accommodations would subvert the purpose of ELPT to measure the student's proficiency in English.

9. Do students need a microphone or headset for the test?

Students taking the ELPT will need headphones (with microphones) for interacting with the online platform. Specifications for headsets are located in the [Technology Requirements 2017-2018](#) in the Assessment Library.

10. Where can students practice navigating the online testing platform?

Students can use the Online Tools Training (OTT) in the [ELPT Portal](#) for practice with the testing platform.