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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) and English Language Proficiency Screener (ELPS)

### 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 within 30 days of enrollment. 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.
- Reference the [EL Identification Flowchart](#) for an overview of the process of identifying a student as EL.

#### 2. A student did not score proficient on 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 two full school years 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.
- Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, the K-8 and high school assessment indices will also include a measure of progress to English language proficiency for English Learners. Every English Learner's improvement on the ELPT counts in equal weight to all other exams.

**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 Checklist](#)

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

## ELPS

**1. What is ELPS?**

ELPS is the English Language Proficiency Screener, standardized assessment used to measure a student's English language proficiency and to determine if the student is eligible additional language supports in content classrooms.

**2. Who takes ELPS?**

ELPS is a screener available for newly registering students grades K through 12 who indicate a language other than English on the Home Language Survey (HLS). Revisit question number 1 under "General" for specific information.

Reference the [EL Identification Flowchart](#) for an overview of the process of identifying a student as EL.

**3. When should a student take ELPS?**

Newly registering students are required to take the be given an English Language Proficiency Screener within 30 days of enrollment.

**4. How is ELPS administered?**

The ELPS is a computer-based assessment that will be taken in the AIR Portal, the same testing system used for the English Learner Proficiency Test (ELPT). Prior to testing, the [AIR Secure Browser](#) must be installed on computers. Reference the [Secure Browser Installation Manual](#) for detailed directions.

The Screener has three steps: an initial orientation and practice step, called Step 1; a component that identifies emerging and most progressing students, called Step 2, and a final Step 3 that distinguishes between students who are proficient and those who are nearly proficient but would still benefit from EL services.

**5. Do students need a microphone or headset for the screener?**

Students taking the ELPS 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.

## ELPS Reporting

**1. When will the reports be available?**

For students who stop screening after Step 2, reports will be available within hours of screening. For students who continue screening through Step 3, score reports will be available within 7 days of screening. School test coordinators will be able to access the individual report of each ELPS tester. Reports will be divided into the four language domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

**2. How can the reports be accessed?**

ELPS results can be accessed in the [AIR Online Reporting System \(ORS\)](#).

**3. How will the scores be used?**

A student who does not score proficient on the ELPS should be classified as an English learner (EL). Within 30 days of a student registering, the school must assess and inform the student's parent/guardian(s) of student's program eligibility, as described in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A sample parental notification form can be found in the [Assessment Library](#).

The student should receive supplementary language support services to continue developing proficiency in English. An [English Learner Accommodations Plan](#) should be developed for each eligible student. This plan lists the accommodations and modifications available to an EL in content classes to assist in acquiring the English Language.

## 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. The ELPT will be administered in the spring of each school year. 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). 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 and are eligible for reclassification.

**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. Each language domain score equates to a performance level. The performance levels create a profile which is used to determine if the student is **Emerging, Progressing** or **Proficient**.

To achieve “Proficient” students should receive Level 4s and Level 5s in each of their domains. More information about performance levels and proficiency can be found in the [Performance 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 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 [ELPT 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.

## ELPT Reporting

**1. When will the reports be available?**

Reports will be available by mid-May through AIR ORS. This can be accessed through the [ELPT Portal](#).

**2. How can the reports be accessed?**

ELPT results can be accessed in the [AIR Online Reporting System \(ORS\)](#). The ORS User Guide is posted to the [ELPT Portal](#) with directions for accessing ELPT testing data and student reports.

**3. What do the reports contain?**

The student reports contain domain performance levels, proficiency determinators as well as state and district comparisons. More information can be found in the [Parent Guide to ELPT Student Reports](#).

**4. How will the scores be used?**

The domain scores will be used to determine the area (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) and the types of supports the student will need to be successful in his/her content classes.

Additionally, domain scores will be compiled into a profile. The profile is used to determine overall English language proficiency of either Emerging, Progressing, or Proficient. More information about these levels can be found in the [ELPT Performance Level Descriptors](#).

**5. How can students exit from EL services?**

A student will be eligible for reclassification once he/she scores a profile of Proficient (Level 4 or 5) in all tested domains. The student will then be reclassified as a “monitored” student and will no longer need to take ELPT. Monitoring will take place for 2 years.