

# PARENT GUIDE TO ELPT

As schools and students begin their final preparations for the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT), the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) created this fact sheet to provide parents with general information about the test, and what you and your child can expect when he or she takes the tests.

## KNOW THE TEST

### 1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST: ELPT

Each spring, students who have been identified as English Learners (ELs) enrolled in grades K–12 take ELPT. This online assessment is untimed, and measures a student’s English proficiency in the four language domains:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Listening

ELPT is designed to measure the performance of ELs as they progress through their K–12 education and achieve college and career readiness. ELPT draws upon emerging technologies and innovative methods to measure progress and to encourage reclassification relative to grade-appropriate performance.

Results from the assessment will be used to determine a student’s level of English proficiency and to decide which language services and supports the student will need to fully participate in core content classes.

ELs take this assessment until they are determined to be proficient. Proficiency is defined as the ability to use the English language to communicate ideas, knowledge, and information.

Even those students who have refused participation in an EL program are required to take ELPT.

### 2. ELPT DESIGN AND ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS

The ELPT consists of various performance tasks spread out across the four language domains. Most of the tasks are followed up by selected–response (multiple–choice) questions; others by a constructed response, and some use technology where students produce a response. The following is a list of some of the task types by domain:

GRADE(S)	READING	WRITING	SPEAKING	LISTENING
K	Literary texts Informational texts Correspondence	Words Sentences	Classroom scenario Picture description	Matching Follow instructions Conversations
1	Literary texts Informational texts Correspondence	Words Sentences	Show and share Opinion	Conversations Read aloud Presentation
2-3	Literary texts Informational texts Correspondence	Picture caption Storyboard	Opinion Conversation	Follow instructions Conversation Discussion
4-5	Literary texts Informational texts Matching	Editing Opinion Writing Questions	Analyze a visual Compare pictures Conversation	Presentation Conversation Discussion
6-8	Short paragraphs Argument and Support Essays	Editing Writing Questions Emails	ELA presentation Analysis Observe and report	Conversation Discussion Academic debate
9-12	Short paragraphs Argument Essays Extended Sets	Editing Emails Construct a claim	Compare pictures Presentations Observe and report	Academic debate Conversation Academic discussion

Students will receive an Achievement Level score in each domain as well as an overall Proficiency Level.

ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS
LEVEL 1: BEGINNING
LEVEL 2: EARLY INTERMEDIATE
LEVEL 3: INTERMEDIATE
LEVEL 4: EARLY ADVANCED
LEVEL 5: ADVANCED

PROFICIENCY LEVELS
PROFICIENT
PROGRESSING
EMERGING

The Proficiency Level is determined by student achievement level in each domain. Additional information will be included with the student's scores.

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## ONLINE TESTING SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 5–MARCH 16, 2018

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Schools determine the schedule for administering the online tests during this window; therefore, testing days and session rotations will vary by school.

### 3. TEST RESULTS

Schools and school systems will receive ELPT results in May. Each school system will decide how to share this information, but teachers, parents and students will be provided with the student's English proficiency in each domain. The results will include the Achievement Level as well as the Proficiency Level.

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## PREPARE FOR THE TEST

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### 4. KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILD IS LEARNING

To find out the learning expectations for your student's grade level, take a look at the LA Connectors for ELs at <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academic-standards> which gives descriptions of the English language skills and knowledge your child should have based on his/her proficiency level.

Other ways to help your child includes:

- Having your child read to you (or a younger sibling).
- Visiting your local library and borrowing audiobooks.
- Attending parent-teacher conferences at your child's school.
- Watching television or listening to music in English.
- Practicing reading and writing in your native language as well (research shows that doing so helps to support English literacy skills.)

By understanding the language skills your student needs to be proficient, you will be better positioned to help your child connect the dots between what he/she is learning and the assessment.

### 5. USEFUL LINKS

- LA Connectors for ELs: <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/academic-standards>
- ELPT Online Tools Training (Through Google Chrome): <https://wbte.drcredirect.com/LA/portals/la>

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For more information about this or any other statewide assessment, talk to your child's principal or teacher, or email the Department at [assessment@la.gov](mailto:assessment@la.gov).

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