

Field Test FAQ

Please Note: This FAQ is specific to the Field Test and Platform and System Trial Only

Categories: *General (Timing, Participation, and Registration), Field Test Administration, Technology & Hardware, Training & Support*

General

When will the Field Test be held?

The computer-based Field Test to be held February 2 – March 31, 2015 (rolling opening: Grades 9-12 opens Feb. 2, all other grade bands open Feb. 16) will examine the ELPA21 test items and how they perform. States can customize their Field Test timing within the February 2 – March 31, 2015, window.

Who should participate in the Field Test?

ELPA21 is seeking the largest number of students schools can provide representing current English language learner (ELL), prior ELL, screened but English proficient, and English-only student populations. ELPA21 strongly urges participation of all ELLs, including those who are proficient. Information from the Field Test will be used to inform the ELPA21 operational screener and summative assessments.

Why should my district or school participate in the Field Test and/or Platform and System Trial?

School and district participation in the computer-based Field Test and the Platform and System Trial will lead to a better operational assessment system for School Year 2015-16. The Field Test and the Trial will provide administrators, educators, and students with the opportunity to test ELPA21 items, testing devices, and administration manuals.

What is the difference between the Field Test and the Platform and System Trial?

The Field Test is for all ELLs and will provide ELPA21 with valuable information on the items and types of items to be used in the operational assessment system. The Platform and System Trial is smaller-scale, focused on school-based educators and administrators, and will help inform the Field Test.

Field Test

- Dates: Feb. 2 – March 31, 2015 (rolling opening: Grades 9-12 opens Feb. 2; all other grade bands open Feb. 16; states can determine when within the timeframe they would prefer to Field Test)
- Participation: All ELLs, including those deemed “proficient” and “prior”
- Purpose: Inform the ELPA21 operational screener and summative assessments

The contents of this document were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.

Platform and System Trial

- Dates: Jan. 6 – 14, 2015
- Participation: School-based educators and administrators
- Purpose: Feedback from participants will be used to refine Field Test

Timing

When will the Field Test be conducted?

The Field Test will take place from Feb. 2 – March 31, 2015. Each ELPA21 state will set their own specific window within the Field Test timeframe.

When will the Platform and System Trial be conducted?

The Platform and System Trial will take place Jan. 6 – 14, 2015.

Participation

Who can participate in the Field Test and/or Platform and System Trial?

All schools and districts in ELPA21 consortium states are invited and encouraged to register. Field Test participation is unlimited, but the number of Platform and System Trial participants will be smaller.

Can a non-ELPA21 state participate in the Field Test or Platform and System Trial?

Schools and districts that are not in ELPA21 consortium states may not participate in the Field Test or Platform and System Trial.

Which grades will participate in the Field Test?

Students in grades Kindergarten – 12 may participate in the Field Test, and schools may elect to participate in some or all grades.

Which grades will participate in the Platform and System Trial?

ELPA21 is seeking school-based educators and administrators to simulate the student testing experience, evaluate the administration guides, and provide feedback. We are also seeking ways to incorporate feedback from students. The feedback from schools and districts on the Platform and System Trial will be used to refine the Field Test delivery platform.

Can certain grades within districts participate and not others?

This determination is made by each individual ELPA21 state. Please contact your state ELP Assessment Director if you wish to volunteer students in some grades but not others.

Can a state select the specific schools or classrooms to participate in the Field Test?

This decision is up to an individual state and/or district.

If my school registers for the Field Test and/or Platform and System Trial, do we still have to take our state's summative ELPA assessment?

Taking the Field Test does not replace participation in your state's summative assessment. Each state will make its own determination about participation in the summative ELP assessment for School Year 2014-15. Please contact your state assessment director or ELP coordinator for more information.

Registration

How do districts or schools register to participate in these events?

Register online October 6 – 17, 2014, at <https://elpa21ft.questarai.com/registration/> by verifying basic state, district, and school contact information, and answering questions about the student population participating in the **Field Test**. The student populations are separated into four categories:

- **Current ELL:** Students who are receiving ELL services and have not yet reached proficiency sufficient for program exit.
- **Prior ELL:** Students who have tested proficient in the past two academic years and are being monitored.
- **Screened but English proficient:** Students who were deemed proficient through administration of the ELL screener, even if the Home Language Survey indicated that a language other than English is spoken at home. These students may be described as initially fluent English proficient (IFEP).
- **English only:** Students whose Home Language Survey results indicated they are not potential ELLs, or students whose only language is English.

ELPA21 strongly urges you to register all of your ELL students for the Field Test, including “proficient” and “prior.” Participation is voluntary and the number of participants is unlimited.

Why is there an “English only” student population being requested for the Field Test?

The participation of English proficient non-ELL students in the Field Test is essential to ensuring that ELPA21 assessments hold ELLs and non-ELLs to equally rigorous standards.

What if our district or states uses a different term or definitions for the student populations shown in the registration process?

Please contact your ELP assessment coordinator for guidance.

How will registrants know what information is going to be asked of them when they access the registration site?

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Visit www.ELPA21.org/fieldtest. On this page, resources for more information including specification for hardware and headsets can be found. Also, please contact your state's ELPA21 representative or send an email to info@ELPA21.org.

For my state, district administrators will be registering for the field test instead of school administrators. Can one primary contact register multiple schools or multiple districts?

Yes.

I had to exit the registration process before I completed my registration. Do I have to start over?

No – your information is saved as each page is completed. So it is best to complete the page you are working on to avoid reentering that information. If you have not fully completed a page and need to step away, we recommend you take a screen shot of your work so far, as any partially completed pages will not be saved.

When you return, you'll be asked to select your state, district and school. Once you do that, the information you have already entered will appear and you will be able to pick up where you left off.

What happens after I complete the registration process?

You (the primary contact) will receive an email confirming the registration process is complete. ELPA21 will review all of the information submitted from across the ELPA21 states to make sure target student populations are met. If needed, additional schools and districts will be recruited. If you registered for the Platform and System Trial, you will receive an email the week of November 10, 2014, confirming your participation and training information. Training is expected to take place the week of December 1, 2014. If you registered for the Field Test, you will receive an email the week of November 10, 2014, confirming your participation, training information, and pre-ID information. Training is expected to take place the week of January 5, 2015.

If a school registers for the Field Test, can they “opt out” of participating at any point?

Registration for the Field Test indicates a willingness to participate. Schools will be contacted in November 2014 with a confirmation of their participation and more information. We understand circumstances change, but believe this is an important opportunity for schools to help shape the assessment that will contribute to improving the overall education of ELLs and their college and career success.

Since the number of participants in the Field Test is unlimited, does this mean every registrant will participate in the Field Test?

Registration for the field test is open and is an expression of interest in participating. School participation will be confirmed in November 2014.

Field Test Administration

About how long will the administration of the Field Test take for a student? Does this depend on grade level?

Yes, it depends on grade level. You can plan on the ELPA21 field test taking approximately as long as your current ELP assessment. Kindergarten and first grade students will have the shortest administration times, needing approximately one hour for the field test, while our highest grade bands will need two hours. These times can be split across multiple sessions and do not include time for starting the assessment and general instructions. Look for more specific guidance on administration times and other supporting information in late October 2014.

Can it be delivered in a group setting or one-on-one?

The field test is designed for group administration, though younger test takers may need one-on-one attention to get their test started.

Which domains will students see in the Field Test?

The Field Test items include the four domains of listening, reading, writing, and speaking, as will the operational system. Because this is a field test, students may not see items from all four domains, though they will experience a variety of item types.

Will there be training available for test administrators?

Yes. There will be a series of brief webinars available in December 2014 for training.

Technology & Hardware

What are the technology requirements for the Field Test and the Platform and System Trial?

ELPA21's technical specifications were designed to be compatible with technology used in consortium member states. Hardware requirements can be found [here](#). These ELPA21 technical requirements are specific to the Field Test and the Platform and System Trial only – not the operational assessment system. Any questions about ELPA21 technical requirements should be directed to info@elpa21.org.

Is there an ELPA21 workstation readiness manual to help us make sure each machine is properly set up for students?

A Software Installation and WorkStation Readiness Manual will be made available to ELPA21 states in December 2014.

Is a headset required and, if so, of what type?

ELPA21 assessments contain significant components requiring listening and the capture of speech. Therefore, headsets need to conform to certain requirements that may exceed

standard computer lab headsets. Technical requirements for headsets compatible with the delivery of the ELPA21 field test, pilot, and future operational assessments can be found [here](#).

Are laptops and tablets supported?

Yes, they are supported.

What technology information will I need to provide when I register?

ELPA21's technical specifications were designed to be compatible with technology used in consortium member states. Hardware requirements for the Field Test and Platform and System trial can be found [here](#).

Training & Support

What training opportunities will there be for the Field Test and Platform and System Trial?

ELPA21 and Questar Assessment will produce several informational webinars to orient test administrators. Additional details including dates and topics will be available soon.

What test administration documents and resources will be made available?

ELPA21 will produce the following documents to assist in administration:

- Test Administration Manuals for each grade band
- Accommodations and Accessibility Manuals

Where can I get more information?

- For questions about the Field Test including registration, please contact Questar Customer Service at ELPA21Support@questarai.com or by phone at 866-997-0695.
- Visit www.ELPA21.org/fieldtest
- Contact info@ELPA21.org
- Contact your state's ELPA21 representative