Alt ELPA Screener Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment

School Year 2024–2025

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Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. **What is the purpose of the Alt ELPA Screener?**
    The Alt ELPA Screener is an English language screener. English language screeners are administered to students whose home language use surveys indicate that they may be English learners. The Alt ELPA Screener is designed to identify students who are eligible for English learner services.

2. **How is the Alt ELPA Screener different from the ELPA21 Dynamic Screener?**
    The Alt ELPA Screener has assessment items and test administration practices that make the assessment accessible to students who have, or may have, significant cognitive disabilities. The ELPA21 Dynamic Screener is accessible to the majority of potential English learners, while the Alt ELPA Screener is designed specifically for students with cognitive disabilities.

3. **Who takes the Alt ELPA Screener?**
    State policy will determine whether the Alt ELPA Screener or the ELPA21 Dynamic Screener is administered.

4. **When can the Alt ELPA Screener be administered?**
    The Alt ELPA Screener can be administered throughout the year, with the exception of a short window of "downtime" over the summer, to allow the testing system to transition to the new school year.

5. **How is the Alt ELPA Screener administered?**
    The Alt ELPA Screener is administered one-to-one via a computer; it is accessed through the Cambium ELPA21 portal, like the other ELPA21 assessments. It is recommended that a second person be present to score the writing and speaking constructed response questions. See the *Alt ELPA Screener Test Administration Manual*, Appendix B, for more information.

6. **Who administers the Alt ELPA Screener?**
    The Alt ELPA Screener is administered by trained test administrators. Test administrators who administer the Alt ELPA Screener should be trained on the test delivery platform, as well as on administering and scoring the assessment. For more information on the training requirements, visit your state's assessment portal.

7. **What is included on the Alt ELPA Screener?**
    The Alt ELPA Screener assesses the four language domains—listening, reading, speaking, and writing—as required by federal law.

8. **How long is the Alt ELPA Screener?**
   For school year 2024–25, the Alt ELPA Screener includes two warm-up questions, then a total of 15 scored test questions across the four domains of language.

9. **What do the test questions look like?**
   Test questions on the Alt ELPA Screener are very similar to those on the Alt ELPA Summative. Test questions are presented in a variety of accessible formats, including multiple choice, technology-enhanced, and constructed response. To learn more about the design of the Alt ELPA test questions and scoring rubric, please see the samples available in *The Alt ELPA Test Questions*.

10. **If a student is administered the Alt ELPA Screener and qualifies for EL services, are they eligible for the Alt ELPA Summative Assessment?**
    Taking the Alt ELPA Screener does not qualify a student for the Alt ELPA21 Summative Assessment. An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is required for a student to access the alternate standards and the alternate ELP assessment.

Alt ELPA Screener Accessibility

11. **What accessibility supports are available on the Alt ELPA Screener?**
    The Alt ELPA Screener is designed to be accessible to students who may be English learners who also have a cognitive disability. For the full list of available accessibility supports, please consult the *Alt ELPA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual* found on your state's testing portal.

12. **What if the student is not able to read the questions or respond?**
    The entire test can be read aloud to the student. The Alt ELPA Screener also has a process for educators to follow for students who do not have an observable mode of communication. This is explained in the *Alt ELPA Screener Test Administration Manual*.

13. **What if a student is not able to navigate the test independently?**
    Students who cannot navigate the test independently, or who need alternate modes of response, can still participate in the Alt ELPA Screener. Test administrators are permitted to assist students with test navigation and responding to test questions, as described in the *Alt ELPA Screener Test Administration Manual*. Students may also use their usual assistive technology as described in the *Alt ELPA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual*.

14. **Is there a Braille version of the Alt ELPA Screener?**
    Refreshable braille is accessible through a student's assistive device, via the online testing format.

15. Is there a paper-pencil version of the Alt ELPA Screener?

Most students' accessibility needs are better served with computer-based testing. For students who have an IEP that indicates paper testing, the testing platform's Print on Request feature can securely print test items for a student who needs this support.

16. Does the Alt ELPA Screener use tactile graphics?

There are no tactile graphics provided for the Alt ELPA Screener. If state policy allows, tactile graphics and manipulatives can be created by test administrators for the Alt ELPA assessments. Any tactile graphics and manipulatives created must be treated like other secure assessment materials and securely destroyed after use.

17. Are manipulatives allowable on the Alt ELPA Screener?

Manipulatives that are noted in a student's IEP are allowable, but not required, for the Alt ELPA Screener. Test administrators should consult the *Alt ELPA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual* for guidance regarding manipulatives.

Alt ELPA Screener Scoring and Reporting

18. What scores are produced by the Alt ELPA Screener?

The Alt ELPA Screener will provide a student's proficiency determination, modality and domain performance levels, and performance level descriptions.

19. When will screener data be provided?

In most cases, results are available on the same day as screener administration.

20. What are the scores used for?

The Alt ELPA Screener scores may be used to inform initial program eligibility decisions, classroom instruction for ELs, and identify potential resource needs for both students and teachers.