



ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

ELPA21 Questions and Answers for Families

Your child's school is participating in the new assessment for measuring students' knowledge of English called the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21). To help you understand how the Test works, here are answers to questions you may have.

What is ELPA21?

ELPA21 was created by a group of states working together to improve education for English language learners. Results from the ELPA21 will be used by the states. Students taking the Test will use a computer to listen, speak, read, write, and follow instructions. They will be shown short videos, presented with text to read, and asked to complete exercises that are similar to activities they do in the classroom and at home.

Why is my child's school participating in the ELPA21?

Your child is taking the ELPA21 assessment because it is an accurate measure of students' proficiency with the English language. It is also the chosen instrument by the state to measure students' proficiency with the English language.

Where and when will my child take the ELPA21?

The Test will take place at your child's school during regular school hours between February 1 and March 11. The test will take about one hour for grades K–1, ninety minutes for grades 2–5, and two hours for grades 6–12. Some children may be given more time to complete the test, based on their specific needs.

Will I be told how my child scores on the ELPA21?

Yes. The purpose of the Test is to measure students' English language proficiency, scores will be reported to your state's department of education and distributed to your child's school.

Does the ELPA21 have features to support students with additional needs?

Yes. The ELPA21 includes a number of features for students with disabilities and a broad range of learning needs.

For more information on ELPA21, visit www.elpa21.org and <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/english-learners/elpa21>