

## Ten Reasons to Participate in the ELPA21 Field Test

1. **Your participation makes a difference.** The more students who are involved in the ELPA21 field test, the better we are able to gauge how well the test works, and what improvements are necessary. ELPA21's goal for the field test is to include at least 50 percent of the English language learner (ELL) populations in each of our member states. Your school or district's involvement will lead directly to an improved assessment system that is better tailored to accurately assess the needs of *your* students.
2. **See the new English language proficiency (ELP) standards in action.** The new ELP standards are the very core of the ELPA21 assessment system. Through your school's participation in the Field Test, you and your students will have the chance to see how the ELP standards are being assessed. In early December 2014, participating schools, teachers, parents, and students will have the opportunity to see and practice ELPA21's innovative item types when ELPA21's Field Test Interactive Demo Site goes live.
3. **ELPA21 is built *by states for states*.** Every decision made by the ELPA21 consortium takes into account the specific needs of each member state. ELPA21 is an assessment system made *by states for states*. Your school or district's participation in the Field Test ensures your students' needs are heard and taken into account as we look toward ELPA21's first operational summative assessment in school year 2015-16.
4. **Simplify your schedule.** ELPA21 strives to make participation in the Field Test easy for schools. In an effort to reduce the burden of pulling certain students out of class, we encourage teachers and schools to register your entire class or even the whole grade. Additionally, participation by a wide array of students, including those with disabilities and native English speakers will help to ensure that our assessment system meets the needs of all ELLs and that ELPA21 assessments hold ELLs and non-ELLs to equally rigorous standards.
5. **Practice without pressure.** Students and teachers who participate in the ELPA21 Field Test will have a unique opportunity to see and experience the brand new assessment first hand — without worrying about scores.
6. **Get comfortable in the computer lab.** ELPA21 Field Test participants will get an extra chance to practice in the computer lab. As a result, students may feel more comfortable and more prepared for upcoming computer-based annual assessments.
7. **The ELPA21 assessments are interactive and fun!** ELPA21 has made it a priority to develop items that are interactive and engaging for students. Give your students the opportunity to test out ELPA21's innovative item types, which include video segments, audio prompts, and interactive activities that will engage and challenge your students in new and exciting ways.

8. **ELPA21 offers flexible participation and administration of the Field Test.** While we encourage you to register your entire district or school, ELPA21 understands the potential for scheduling conflicts. That is why we offer various ways to participate. Sign up your entire school, a single grade, or maybe just a few students. The ELPA21 Field Test can also be administered in a number of different ways. The four domains — reading, writing, listening and speaking — can be administered separately during a single day or on different days entirely. We want to help make the Field Test work for you.
9. **Become a part of the ELPA21 professional development network.** ELPA21 wants educators to be involved in every step of the assessment development process. Since the early stages of item development, ELPA21 has been working to develop a network of educators who are interested in transforming the way ELLs are taught and assessed. By participating in the Field Test, you will become a part of a network of educators and have the opportunity to benefit from supporting materials and professional development tools.
10. **ELPA21 strives to provide a tool for all ELLs.** As a consortium, we strongly believe that our geographic, political, and demographic differences are what make us stronger — and will ultimately lead us to the best state-developed assessment system for ELLs. ELPA21 strives to provide a positive, productive, and fair assessment experience for all students, including those from under-represented groups, such as ELLs with disabilities, through the use of universal design, accessibility tools, and external accommodations supported by state and content experts' research and practice. All of our students deserve an excellent education — it is a basic civil right. High quality assessments are a key component of an education system. The greater the diversity of students participating in the Field Test, the better our assessment system will be able to meet the needs of all ELLs.