

AR ELPA21 FAQs

General Test Questions

1. When is the testing window?
February 1, 2016 – March 11, 2016
2. What is the URL for the Interactive Demo Site?
<http://elpa-practice.nextera.questarai.com/student/webclient/practicetest/>
3. What grade bands are tested?
K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12
4. What domains are tested?
Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing
5. What are the Grade Band administration times?
K, 1 ~60 minutes (total time to administer all 4 domains)**
2-3, 4-5 ~90 minutes (total time to administer all 4 domains)**
6-8, 9-12 ~120 minutes (total time to administer all 4 domains)**
***These times are just for administration; they DO NOT include set-up, administration directions, on-screen tools review, student breaks, or pull-down. THESE TIMES ARE FOR PLANNING PURPOSES; THEY DO NOT MEAN THAT THE ASSESSMENT WILL CLOSE DOWN.*
6. Is the assessment timed?
The assessment is not timed.
7. Can multiple grades be tested at the same time?
Yes, as long as they are within the defined grade bands: K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, or 9-12. The directions for different grade bands vary so you should not test multiple grade bands at the same time.
8. Can grades 4-5 take the assessment in the same room?
Yes, because they are in the same grade band. The grade bands are K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12.
9. Do the domains have to test together?
No, the domains (listening, speaking, reading, writing) may be tested in any combination, as long as any given domain test is started, taken, and closed within one session (aka – school day). Remember, any domain MUST be submitted within one school day.
10. Can students skip questions and answer them later before the domain test is submitted?
Yes; however, students CANNOT revisit questions/answers after a school day.
11. Can students submit a domain's answers without answering all questions?
Yes.
12. How many times can a student listen to a question?
Only 2 times on the operational test – Students should listen to the ENTIRE listening passage on any screen before listening again.
13. How many times can a student re-record a speaking response?

Only 2 times on the operational test

14 When should DTC Registration be considered complete?

Registration needs to be complete by 1/26.

Accommodations Questions

15 Large Print – Does it need to be ordered ahead of time?

Yes, these will need to be ordered beforehand. The DTC will do this within the Admin Site. The projected date-of-receipt is 2/29/16.

16 If a student needs to have the large print – How is the speaking part of the test given?

Via the computer, just like the other students. The computer will capture the speaking, but the instructions should be sent along with the other large print items.

17 Scribing – What are the rules? Is it like the old Benchmark where they have to spell every word?

Yes

18 Some of the Self-Contained kids have trouble with using a mouse. Can the teacher manipulate the mouse for them? If so, are there some guidelines that might help with this?

If the mouse manipulation help is in an IEP, then it's ok. Otherwise, no.

19 Will Arkansas allow directions to be given to the students in Spanish via the online system of testing?

No, the online system will not give native-language instructions to the students. This is "non-embedded", meaning it is locally provided. Anyone who reads the directions MUST be a licensed AR educator.

20 Are accommodations only allowed for students with an IEP or a 504 Plan?

No. Only Designated Features (identified in advance) need an LPAC. Accommodations specifically requires and IEP or 504.

21 Will we request Braille copies in the PNP?

Braille booklets will be ordered through the online administration system.

22 When we create the PNP for the ACT Aspire, will they automatically be created for ELPA21?

No, you will need to add them individually to students within the administration platform.

23 If a student needs speech-to-text, will he/she need to utilize their own voice recognition software?

This is "assistive technology"/"scribe" in the non-embedded, IEP/504 Accommodation. The student will be allowed to use his/her device. As long as the personal voice recognition software is on a separate device, then yes. If the software is on the test-taking device, no, because the testing application locks out all other functionality on the testing device.

24 Can we help kids navigate the website during the test?

Yes, with things like the following: scrolling, selecting a response by clicking, dragging and dropping, starting and stopping recording of a spoken response, and moving between screens. All non-accommodated students should have been given sufficient practice using the Online Demo prior to the test.

25 What is the process for testing Self Contained special education students?

Test them using appropriate accommodations as outlined in the student's IEP.

- 26 What suggestions for profoundly disabled students who can't use computers or speak?
Test them using appropriate accommodations as outlined in the student's IEP.
- 27 Can directions be given in native language for clarity if they are non-English speaking or is it all in English?
Yes. Questar will provide translations in AR's top 5 languages (Spanish, Marshallese, Vietnamese, Laotian, & Arabic). The directions can be read by the students or read to them by a person fluent in both the language and English. If the language you need isn't one of these, your school/district may produce the needed directions following these guidelines:

"...all locally provided translation of directions must be prepared in writing ahead of time and based as precisely as possible on the exact standard English directions. Slight adaptations may be used as necessary to communicate the same meaning as that found in the standard form; however, the same instructions for reading the directions are the same as those for English administrations.

The ADE will allow Arkansas schools the option of translating the English test directions into another language. This is a local decision and the district will be responsible for contracting and funding the written translation of directions to be given to the student. Contracted translators must be certified in the target language and proficient in English. Districts are responsible for ensuring the translation communicates the same meaning as that found in the standard form and must keep all documentation related to the qualifications of the translator. The ADE will not allow the use of electronic translators, either external or web-based."

Also, AR policy does not allow for an accommodation to be given on an assessment that isn't used within the classroom.

Other Questions

- 28 Can the teacher have a splitter for headphones so that they can listen in on the test?
No; this would create a testing violation and would invalidate the student's test.
- 29 What are the licensure requirements for test administrators?
All Test Administrators **MUST** be licensed by the Arkansas Department of Education.
- 30 Do Proctors have to be licensed?
Test Proctors do not need to be licensed; however, they must be locally trained and sign the security agreement.
Test Administrators **MUST** be licensed.
- 31 Can paraprofessionals help on the practice interactive site?
Yes, but paraprofessionals can ONLY help administer the practice interactive demo site. They MAY NOT help administer the operational test. They are limited to handing out tissues, accompanying students to the restroom, etc.
- 32 Can there be an additional proctor in the room that is not certified for monitoring purposes?
Yes; however, they must be locally trained and sign the security agreement.
- 33 Do we have to have headsets for the test?
Yes; headsets with integrated microphones are recommended. For more information, see the following: <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/english-learners/elpa21/elpa21-resource-materials> under the "Technology" heading.
- 34 What do we do if a student's paper answer sheet for K – 1 Writing is soiled?
If a test booklet is contaminated with blood, vomit or other bodily fluids:

- Student responses for valid test sessions must be transferred to clean documents.
- Soiled test book must be securely destroyed following requirements for disposing of hazardous materials. Test book must **not** be returned to Questar.
- Send a letter to Questar with the following information.
 - Student name
 - Test Booklet content
 - Secure barcode number
 - New barcode used for the student
 - Reason the booklet is not being returned (vomit, bloody nose etc.)
 - Please indicate the method used to securely destroy the student test booklet

35 What do we do if a student's large print or Braille paper answer sheet is soiled?

If a test booklet is contaminated with blood, vomit or other bodily fluids:

- Student responses for valid test sessions must be transferred to clean documents.
- Soiled test book must be securely destroyed following requirements for disposing of hazardous materials. Test book must **not** be returned to Questar.
- Send a letter to Questar with the following information.
 - Student name
 - Test Booklet content
 - Secure barcode number
 - New barcode used for the student
 - Reason the booklet is not being returned (vomit, bloody nose etc.)
 - Please indicate the method used to securely destroy the student test booklet

36 Is there a software download that must be done on student computers before the actual test date?

Yes, the secure browser will be available on 1/25/16.

37 Can we use Chrome Book?

Yes

38 When will we get our log-in information for Nextera?

District Level Users (DTCs) will receive their log-in information on 1/12/16. School Level Users will receive their log-in information once they are set up by their DTCs.

39 Does the moving student directions apply to students moving from school to school within a district?

Yes

40 I am not sure whether or not my student was in the state upload. Is there any way I can find out?

If your student was not uploaded with the state file, please follow the instructions for adding new student within Nextera.

41 Will the Toolkit Modules be added to the LiveBinder?

Yes.

42 When will the Toolkit Modules be available to watch?

They will be available on 1/12/16.

43 Was the DTC supposed to order the paper materials for the K & 1 tests, or was that pulled automatically?

Writing books for K & 1 students will be sent automatically via the pre-ID information.

44 Will there be overages for the K & 1 writing materials automatically included?

Yes. There will be a 20% overage sent.

45 Do K & 1 students only do paper version?

No. K & 1 students' assessment will be online; however, a portion of their writing will be paper-based. They will need to complete the online and the paper-based portions of their writing domain.

46 Will there be "paper / pencil" materials to order for HS students?

No. High School students' assessment will ONLY be online.

47 When was the pull date for the pre-ID information?

12/4/15

48 Is there a practice test for the paper component of the K & 1 tests?

No.

45. Will we receive a paper copy of the Test Administration manuals, or will they only be available online?

No, they are available online only within the Nextera platform.

46. What materials need to be ordered?

If you need Braille, large print, or paper/pencil accommodated materials, you will need to order these materials via the Nextera platform.

49 When is the last day to order additional materials?

2/29/16

50 Are the testing size ratios a recommendation or a requirement?

They are a recommendation.

51 Is the Chrome Book app available to download yet? If not, when will it be available?

The Chrome Book app isn't available as of today (1/8/16); it will be available beginning 1/12/16 via the Nextera system.

52 Does the Technology Coordinator put the app on our Chrome Books?

Yes, this is usually the case.

53 Do we delete students who move to another state between Dec 4 and Feb 1?

No, you can mark them as not tested.

54 What if a student has been exited from the ESL program since the upload?

Mark the student as Reason Not Tested "Student was incorrectly identified as LEP" within the Nextera platform.

55 Once enrollment numbers are updated by the DTC in the Nextera system, the DTC will need to order the addition K & 1 writing materials for any student additions.

56 If a student is no longer at a school within AR at the time of testing, the student can be removed from the online test session so that login credentials will not be printed for that student. Nothing needs to be marked within the Administration System. If the student moves from one to school or district to another within AR, the previous school/district will need to move that student so s/he can be added to a test session at the new school/district.