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A R 1 3 N T P

Spring 2013

ACTAAP

Arkansas Comprehensive Testing,
Assessment, and Accountability Program

A NOTE TO PARENTS

English Language Development Assessment (ELDA)

Spring 2013

Arkansas Department of Education

The English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) tests English Language Learners (ELL) or Limited English Proficient (LEP) students to determine their level of proficiency in the English language. The ELDA tests only students' proficiency with the English language; it does not assess prior academic knowledge. Students in kindergarten through twelfth grade are tested in four domains: Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking. The results of the assessment help schools determine what type of English language instruction is appropriate for each ELL or LEP student.

Based on his or her composite score (the average of the scores of the four domain tests), each student is assigned a proficiency level. Students at Level 5 are considered to have English language skills comparable to those of a native English speaker. The five proficiency levels are:

1. Pre-functional
2. Beginning
3. Intermediate
4. Advanced
5. Fully English Proficient

Students will take the ELDA during the testing window of March 25 – May 3, 2013. Actual testing dates may vary slightly depending on the school.

It is important for parents to be aware of the purpose of the ELDA and the dates for testing. It is also essential that parents be involved in students' ongoing preparation for testing as well as preparation immediately preceding testing.

How Parents Can Help

When a test is to be given, you can help by making sure your student

- gets plenty of sleep the night before the test;
- has breakfast on the morning of the test;
- goes to school on the day of the test;
- knows you think he/she will do well on the test;
- knows you understand that the test is important.

To help your student learn at home

- encourage your student to read;
- encourage your student to use and practice the English language;
- be interested in what your student does at school (ask what happens each day);
- ask to see your student's school papers;
- talk with and listen to your student (ask each other questions and share experiences);
- visit stores, museums, festivals, etc., with your student and talk about them;
- go to parent-teacher conferences;
- let your student know that you think a good education is important;
- get to know your student's teacher; tell your student that it is okay to ask the teacher questions;
- check frequently to ensure that your student is completing assigned work in a timely manner;
- urge your student to strive for excellence in all that he/she does.