



Updates for the New Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment (Alt ELPA)

October 21, 2022 Webinar

Why does eligibility criteria require the student to have both cognitive and adaptive impairments at the same level?

A student with a cognitive impairment should have a “flat profile” or scores similar across the board. They should not have higher scores in one area and not in another. This is not a profile of a student with a significant cognitive impairment.

Should AZELLA District Test Coordinators (DTCs) take the training in the Learning Management System (LMS) as well?

No, only Alternate Assessment DTCs and Test Administrators that will be administering Alt ELPA should complete the training modules in the Alt ELPA Learning Management System (LMS).

Is it possible to send training information for Alt ELPA to DTCs?

Training information can only be sent to those users who will be administering assessments. Look for emails from ADE about these instructions or email the AlternateAssessment Inbox: AlternateAssessment@azed.gov.

Can you provide any guidance on documenting Alt ELPA accommodations in IEP-Pro?

All Statewide Assessment accommodations should be documented in the students' IEP. If an accommodation is not available in an electronic IEP system (i.e. IEP-Pro), that needs to be addressed somewhere else in the system or reach out to the IEP system vendor to ensure that all allowable accommodations are available. You can also reach out to your ADE ESS Specialists to assist with compliance documentation in an IEP. Another resource for specific verbiage or a list of allowable accommodations are the Accessibility Manuals for each assessment program: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/accessibility>.

I had my students take the AZELLA already; is that okay?

Yes, since that is the only Statewide Assessment. If the student has a significant cognitive disability, meets the criteria to participate in Alternate Assessments, and has been identified as an English Learner, then they will take Alt ELPA in the spring instead of AZELLA.

Do students who will take the MSAA test qualify to take the Alt ELPA?

IEP teams determine alternate assessment participation rather than participation for a specific assessment. Students who meet eligibility criteria will participate in alternate assessments according to their enrolled grade level and EL status.

How long does the Alt ELPA typically take to administer to a single student?

It depends, as with any alternate assessment, frequent breaks are permitted and encouraged.

Can students take Alt ELPA instead of the AZELLA Spring Reassessment Test?

Eligible English Learners (ELs) can take Alt ELPA instead of the AZELLA Spring Reassessment and most likely will take MSAA ELA, Math, and Science assessments (If student is in grades that are assessed).*

Was information on adding Test Administrators in ADEConnect already shared at some point?

The Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator Handbook states that test administrators will be listed separately from student identification (registration). Detailed instructions will be sent to Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators.

If a student is considered EL, but was exited due to SPED criteria (many years ago), do we still assess?

No, you do not; please confirm this on the EL70 Report. If a new test is “accidentally” administered, the student will need to continue to test until proficiency is reached.

Typically we determine Alternate Assessment in 2nd grade. Do we need to start doing that in Kindergarten for EL students to get in the system?

Yes, you will use the eligibility criteria for an English Learner beginning in kindergarten. Eligibility for Alternate Assessment should be reviewed annually at the student’s IEP Meeting.

Has an email been sent with the Alt ELPA training links?

Training information can only be sent to those users who will be administering assessments. Look for emails from ADE about these instructions or email the Alternate Assessment Inbox: AlternateAssessment@azed.gov.

How many times will students take Alt ELPA each year?

One time, per year in the late winter. The test administration window opens February 1- March 17, 2023.

I have signed up teachers on the MSAA website. Do I need to sign them up somewhere for the Alt ELPA as well?

Yes, Alt ELPA will be administered in a different testing platform. There is a process to upload users (test administrators). DTCs cannot register additional teachers/test administrators on the MSAA website until the system opens on February 27, 2023. Please add your teachers to the test administration list in ADEConnect. ADE will upload users into both platforms. Teachers will need to sign themselves up for the Alt ELPA training in the LMS.

If we already held IEP meetings for students in kindergarten-2nd grade, do you recommend we hold IEP addendums to add the alt-assessments criteria?

Yes, if the student is also identified as an English Learner.

Will students who are eligible for Alt ELPA take the Alt ELPA in Spring 2023 and AZELLA in Fall 2023?

No, eligible English Learners will only take Alt ELPA in the late winter/spring. They will no longer take AZELLA unless the student is no longer eligible to participate in Alternate Assessments.

All eligible students will be assessed using AZELLA in Kindergarten or when first assessed. Later, if they qualify for Alternate Assessment, would they be re-assessed using Alt ELPA?

All new English Learners will be assessed with the AZELLA Placement test. Then in the late winter/spring, if the student was less than proficient, has a significant cognitive disability, and is eligible to participate in alternate assessments – the student will participate in Alt ELPA only.

If a student took the AZELLA Placement test already and qualifies for Alternate Assessments, how is the student assigned the Alt ELPA test?

Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators will identify eligible students in the Student Selector Application. Instructions are available in the Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator Handbook.

Webinar Information

How do I view this recorded webinar? If I attended the live event, how do I obtain a professional development certificate?

The recorded webinar and the PowerPoint slides are posted on the Assessment section website at <https://www.azed.gov/assessment> under the “Friday Focus Webinars 2022-2023” dropdown. If you attended the live webinar, you can access your certificate through your account in the Event Management System, where you registered for this event.