



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OELAS Webinar Wednesday, November 15, 2023: Dual-Labeled Students Q&A

Programmatic Questions: Compliance and Instructional Supports

1. Do we have to have a regular PNC and an alt PNC for students who took the Alt ELPA?
 - No. Moving forward, for students who take the Alt ELPA, LEAs will send home the specialized PNC (*Parental Notification and Consent Form for Student Placement in an English Learner Program for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*). At the start of this school year, LEAs sent home the regular PNC to students who took the Alt ELPA to notify parents of continued EL services. Now that the results are available and the specialized PNC and guidance is finalized, LEAs must now comply with ADE guidance to send out the specialized PNCs within the timeframe (30 days from the date of the memo (11-15-2023)).
2. If a resource teacher does focus his/her support using the ELP Standards, it can count towards the Targeted ELD minutes. If the resource teacher is working with a small group, that group should then consist only of EL students to be counted as targeted minutes?
 - That is correct. The requirement for EL Targeted Instructional groupings is that it is ELs only.
3. ESS Program and Monitoring monitors for IEP compliance by ensuring that the needs of the EL learner are addressed in the IEP. They do not monitor for Targeted and Integrated minutes. Should we be writing in Targeted and Integrated minutes as a best practice in IEPs going forward?
 - For ESS compliance, IEP teams are required to consider language needs and then determine what additional supports and services may be needed to meet those needs. LEAs may implement any best practices which may include documenting the Targeted and Integrated Instruction the student will receive and if it will be provided by the special education teacher.
4. If dual label students receive EL instruction from both their general education teacher and SPED teacher, does the total combined time then need to equal 2 hours a day?
 - ELs must receive the required Targeted and Integrated Instructional minutes per the SEI Model implemented for that student. Who provides it is up to the IEP Team to decide; and yes, it can be split between the special education teacher and the general education teacher, for example, as long as the total required minutes are met and as long as those teachers have their SEI endorsement or completed SEI coursework.
5. Do all resource teachers NEED to be SEI endorsed?
 - Only the ones who provide Targeted and Integrated Instruction.
6. Are dual-labeled students allowed to be serviced in the 50/50 model?
 - Yes. All ELs, including dual-labeled students, may participate in the 50-50 Model as long as they have a Bilingual Waiver and the teachers providing Targeted and Integrated Instruction have the SEI endorsement or completed coursework.
7. Do you need a PNC in the student's file if the student is on a PW?
 - Please contact OELAS to discuss this particular situation. This question does not specify the timeline of withdrawal and assessment, and it does not specify if it is regarding a PW EL who took the Alt ELPA or if it is in regard to an PW EL who took the AZELLA. OELAS must ensure it is providing accurate guidance based on this specific situation.

8. Do we need to get PNCs for students with significant cognitive disabilities if we already sent them?
 - Yes. Per the memo sent out on 11-15-2023, LEAs must notify parents/guardians of students who took the Alt ELPA in the Spring of 2023 using the specialized PNC.

Assessment Questions: AZELLA, Accommodations, Alt ELPA

1. Can students who are blind or students with communication disorders qualify for the Alt ELPA? (You mentioned only "intellectual disabilities.")
 - AZELLA has braille assessment and allowable supports and accommodations for students who are blind. AZELLA also addresses the needs of students with communication disorders. The AZELLA DTC needs to submit additional accommodations and/or reach out to the AZELLA DTC or AZELLA inbox.
2. What about the Long-Term English Learners with Disabilities who do not qualify for Alt ELPA but struggle to complete work at grade level? Potentially, they may never be able to test proficient on the AZELLA.
 - LEAs are responsible for the academic progress and language acquisition of all students. When you have dual-labeled students who do not qualify for the Alt ELPA, and are LTELs, we suggest the IEP Team looks deeper at the data. Determination must be made to identify specific language needs, ELP Standards that would address the specific language domains and modes of communication where the student is not proficient, and how to intentionally structure instruction to meet those needs.
3. Who do we contact with questions about the ALT ELPA?
 - Please contact your LEA's Alternate Assessments DTCs or the Alternate Assessment Inbox. AssessingSWDs@azed.gov
4. We used to exit students per SPED criteria, and I know that federally that is no longer legal to do. This increases our number of LTELs. We have dual labels who have been in ELL for more than 5 years. Can we automatically qualify them for the ALT ELPA in this case or what measures can we take when we know they no longer need EL services?
 - No, LTEL status cannot automatically qualify for Alt ELPA. There are specific eligibility criteria for Alt ELPA; the student must have an intellectual disability. Sometimes dual-label students take much longer than typical ELs to gain the English language acquisition skills. ADE encourages the LEA to look at what EL services look like for these students.
5. Are documents going to be created to help the teachers prepare students for the Alt-ELPA? Will there be a practice exam like the AZELLA?
 - We are working on materials and supports that teachers will need. There currently is guidance and instructions. Teachers should be focusing on the Alternate ELP Standards which are posted on the Alt ELPA web page. They will show you the different complexity levels and how to support students in understanding and gaining English language skills.
6. Can there be a webinar solely on Alt ELPA?
 - There was a Friday Focus Webinar specifically for Alt ELPA on November 3, 2023. The recording and resources can be found on the ADE's Assessment web page, under the "Friday Focus Webinars 2023-2024" tab. Assessment web page link: <https://www.azed.gov/assessment>
7. Does the regular AZELLA Spring Reassessment apply to students taking the ALT ELPA? As a DTC, I was never informed of the ALT ELPA testing; communication was directed to the special education director.
 - Please reach out to the LEAs Alternate Assessment DTC. This is who the ADE Assessments Team communicates with regarding Alt ELPA.

8. What is the process to get a student qualified for Alt ELPA?
 - The IEP uses the eligibility criteria to determine if a student qualifies for Alt ELPA.
9. Will we get more guidance on how the Alt-ELPA scores correlate to the AZELLA assessment since there proficiency levels are different?
 - These assessments do not correlate because they are different assessments. The Alt ELPA is a specialized alternate assessment designed for students with significant cognitive disability. They have their own scores, proficiency level meanings, and interpretations, so they are their own tests. But if a student is proficient on the Alt ELPA, that means the same as being proficient on the AZELLA. However, once a student demonstrates overall proficiency on either AZELLA or Alt ELPA, the student has met the criteria to be exited from EL services.
10. When will last year's Alt ELPA scores be released?
 - Spring 2023 Alt ELPA scores were released to the Alternate Assessment District Test Coordinator on October 23, 2023. Printed hard copies have been mailed out as well.
11. Are there model classrooms that the state has encountered to show how to appropriately service students who are dual-labeled with severe cognitive abilities. Support in this area would be greatly appreciated.
 - We have not encountered any specific programs. I would encourage the LEA to reach out to other LEAs and ask.
12. Are there any accommodations available for ELs when they are taking state assessments such as the Civics test?
 - Reach out to Testing@azed.gov to connect with an ADE specialist for guidance.
13. For Alt ELPA, what is the timeline to assure students are given the appropriate Reassessment in the Spring?
 - November 30, 2023, is the deadline for Alternate Assessment DTCs to identify/select eligible students for alternate assessments.
14. Will we have access to score reports online like we do through PAN?
 - Alt ELPA results are available in the Cambium Assessment Portal, as well as the student's EL70 Report and the district's EL72 Report. Reach out to your Alternate Assessment DTC for more information. They have access to the reports in the Cambium Portal.
15. Our district had a student transfer in who had taken the ALT ELPA at their prior district, but we didn't know, and we gave them an AZELLA placement test; is this okay? How are we notified of the students need for the ALT test?
 - Please contact the AZELLA Inbox to address student or LEA specific questions. The Alt ELPA is for students who have a significant cognitive disability; identified as an intellectual eligibility. For students with intellectual disabilities, in 3rd grade and up, most have already been identified to participate in alternate assessments based the eligibility criteria. LEAs should be working with IEP Team to identify any K-2 students with significant cognitive disabilities/intellectual disabilities, who may be eligible to take alternate assessments since they do not take any other state assessments. Please use the form posted on our website to determine eligibility.
16. Do we need to use the Alt ELPA test for placement and spring reassessment?
 - Alt ELPA is only available for reassessment at this time.
17. Is OELAS in communication with Assessment to convey the overwhelming concerns with the Alt ELPA. Multiple questions about this topic indicate strong concerns as we need more support in this area.
 - Yes., The Assessment Unit and OELAS collaborate quite frequently and issue joint guidance and support.

18. What are your recommendations for assessing (AZELLA) homebound students? We have several this year, and I'd love any suggestions.
- Reach out to the AZELLA Inbox to inquire. Students with any identified accommodations or supports, would need to submit requests by the deadline to ensure the supports are in place for the reassessment. The AZELLA Team can also provide any guidance regarding how to assess students in specific/unique situations.
19. Can a student withdraw from ELPA?
- Students cannot withdraw from the Alt ELPA assessment. However, parents can withdraw from services similar to the process for AZELLA.
20. We are struggling to work with our special ed department. They are reluctant to allow EL identified students to take the ALT ELPA because they are worried about being under the 1% mark. Any advice?
- Any student that meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the Alternate Assessment can and should participate in the appropriate EL Assessment. Currently, the U.S. Department of Education has not provided a cap on participation for EL Alternate Assessments.