



## OELAS Webinar Wednesdays: Dual-Labeled English Learners (ELs) – Combined Q&A for the Webinars Presented On: 11/15/23 and 10/23/24

### November 15, 2023: Dual-Labeled ELs

#### Identification

1. Who are English Learners (ELs) with disabilities (commonly referred to as “dual-labeled” students or “dual-labeled” ELs)?
  - These students are:
    - Between the ages of 5 (school age) and 21
    - Identified as having an EL need as per the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment (AZELLA) Placement, or, if qualified, the Alternate English Language Proficiency (Alt ELPA) Screener
    - Served under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B

#### Programmatic Questions: Compliance and Instructional Supports

2. 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).
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 ELs 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 (Structured English Immersion) 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/ESL/BLE endorsement or completed SEI coursework.

5. If a resource teacher does focus his/her support using the English Language Proficiency (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.
6. Do all resource teachers NEED to be SEI endorsed?
  - Only the ones who provide Targeted and Integrated Instruction.
7. 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. The teachers providing Targeted and Integrated Instruction must have the SEI/ESL/BLE endorsement or completed SEI coursework.
8. 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 Parental Withdrawn (PW) EL who took the Alt ELPA or if it is in regard to a PW EL who took the AZELLA. OELAS must ensure it is providing accurate guidance based on this specific situation.
9. 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 (LTELs) 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. 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-labeled ELs who have been in ELL programs 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, the Long-Term EL (LTEL) status cannot automatically qualify for Alt ELPA. There are specific eligibility criteria for Alt ELPA; the student must have a significant cognitive disability. Sometimes dual-label ELs 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.

4. 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.
5. 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](mailto:AssessingSWDs@azed.gov)
6. 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. Currently there are 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.
7. 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>
8. 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.
9. Will we get more guidance on how the Alt-ELPA scores correlate to the AZELLA assessment since the 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](mailto: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. Do we need to use the Alt ELPA test for placement and spring reassessment?
- [Alt ELPA is only available for reassessment at this time. \(Update: There is now an Alt ELPA screener in addition to the Alt ELPA Reassessment\)](#)
15. 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.](#)
16. 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 student's 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 on 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.](#)
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 Alt ELPA?
- [Students cannot withdraw from the Alt ELPA assessment. However, parents can withdraw from EL 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 who 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.](#)

# October 23, 2024: Services and Assessment of Dual-Labeled ELs

## Documentation for Dual-labeled ELs

1. Do ELs who score Overall Proficient on the Alt ELPA need to be monitored for two years after they are reclassified and exited from EL services?
  - Yes. All ELs, reclassified by means of the AZELLA or Alt ELPA, are monitored for two years following their reclassification year.
2. Where do we file forms for ELs who took the Alt ELPA?
  - ELs who take the AZELLA have their documentation filed in the cumulative files. ELs who take the Alt ELPA have those documents filed in the special education file. Such documents include the *Parental Notification and Consent Form For Student Placement in an English Learner Program For Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*, along with any other documentation identifying a student who has a disability.

## Program and Instruction for Dual-labeled ELs

1. Can the person providing targeted instruction have a Structured English Immersion (SEI) endorsement, but not a teaching certificate?
  - An SEI endorsement cannot be granted to an educator who does not have a teaching certificate (endorsements are added on to teaching certificates). It is possible for educators to complete the SEI endorsement coursework and receive a certificate of completion from that SEI course provider. Arizona State Board Rule 7 A.A.C. 2.L outlines that all public-school **teachers** (district or charter) working with English learners, delivering required minutes of the SEI models, be required to have an ESL, BLE, or SEI Endorsement (or completed SEI Endorsement coursework). Targeted and Integrated Instruction must be provided by the teacher of record.
2. I did not think that EL students could be in the same classroom as general education students while receiving Targeted Instruction (Scenario 2). Is this possible to do?
  - The SEI Models offer flexibility for educators to be able to schedule and structure when and how they will provide EL services to their ELs. In scenario 2 of this presentation, the teacher pulled his EL students to a table at the back of this classroom to provide Targeted ELD Instruction while his non-ELs worked independently or with the paraprofessional. Schools may also select to have ELs walk to a different classroom where the Targeted ELD Teacher will provide Targeted Instruction. The important piece here is to ensure that only ELs are receiving Targeted ELD Instruction during the scheduled Targeted Instruction time.
3. In Scenario 1, Walk to Read, the ELs were getting Targeted ELD Instruction while non-ELs went to ELA? Are students able to be pulled out during core instruction such as their ELA block?
  - The US Department of Justice has issued the following guidance in regards to core instruction and English language development:
    - i. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-el-201501.pdf> (see “1. Core Curriculum” pages 18-19). “...school districts may use a curriculum that temporarily emphasizes English language acquisition over other subjects, provided that any interim academic deficits in other subjects are remedied within a reasonable length of time.”

## Questions Specific to IEP and Assessment for Dual-labeled ELs

1. Can students who are blind or students with communication disorders qualify for the Alt ELPA? (You mentioned only "intellectual disabilities.")
  - AZELLA has a 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. Once students have been identified as ELs it is difficult to have students tested for special education. Do you have any recommendations or suggestions?
  - Please contact ESS. [ESSinbox@azed.gov](mailto:ESSinbox@azed.gov)
3. IEP Documentation: What would including the language need in the IEP look like?
  - Please contact ESS. [ESSinbox@azed.gov](mailto:ESSinbox@azed.gov)
4. Our ESS Director sent in a request for possible Alt AZELLA Placement. When will we get a response?
  - All requests have been processed and the Alternate Assessment District Test Coordinator should have an update. We typically process requests within one business day.
5. Accommodations: If a district states that accommodations are general for students dual identified. The accommodations must be language specific, correct? Is there a checklist that can be used to give to teachers to be sure accommodations are being met?
  - The LEA may develop a checklist according to the LEA's expectations to support program administrators. The IEP is developed accordingly,
6. Alt ELPA documentation I thought any information identifying a student as having an IEP should not be in the CUM folder, but rather in the official SPED folder. Should all EL documentation, including any identifying information about the Alt ELPA, be in the CUM folder?
  - Alt ELPA results and PNCs for Alt ELPA should be kept in the student's secure file.
7. Alt-ELPA Screener: Does the Alt-ELPA screener take the place of the AZELLA placement test for those the IEP team indicate needing alternative assessment? Do they have the same timeline as we do to place the students using this screener?
  - Students who are eligible for alternate assessments take the Alt ELPA screener instead of the AZELLA Placement test. The test window for the Alt ELPA screener closes on the same day the AZELLA Placement Test closes – May 9, 2025.
8. Can we reclassify a dual-labeled student as RFEP based on 1 or 2 domains as long it is stipulated in the student's IEP?
  - An overall proficiency score must be obtained for reclassification. Please contact the AZELLA team with questions for students who have approved domain exemptions. **IEP teams may not determine alternative reclassification criteria.**
9. We have a student who qualified for Alt ELPA test, but they did not take the Spring Alt ELPA last school year. The EL70 report shows their test is outdated now. Should this student take the placement AZELLA or is there an ALT ELPA placement test?
  - Students who are eligible for alternate assessment take Alt ELPA. If an eligible student does not have a current test history, they would take the Alt ELPA screener.

10. ALT ELPA screener/results: Where can we obtain the results of the screener and the results?
- The Alternate Assessment District Test Coordinator can retrieve student results in the Cambium portal.
11. Alt ELPs: Are there any sessions that will be presented specifically on the ELPs for Alt students?
- The Assessment Team is hosting a Friday Focus webinar for Alt ELPA on January 10. Please see the website for registration information. <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/statewide-assessments-friday-focus-webinars>
12. IEP Team Decision on AZELLA Domain Exemptions: What are the next steps following an IEP team's decision to exempt a scholar from a portion of the AZELLA due to disability? For example, a scholar with a hearing impairment may need to be exempted from the Listening and Speaking portion of AZELLA.
- All domain exemptions must be approved by ADE. Please submit an additional accommodation for students who need different forms of the assessment or domain exemptions. <https://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella-additional-accommodations-request-2024-2025>
13. Assessment for DualLabeled Students: Is there talk of adapting the AZELLA for students that have a disability in reading and writing and that are now long-term ELs?
- The Alt ELPA is only about 1% of the population, but there are still many dual-labeled students who will struggle to score proficient on the AZELLA. Federal law does not allow us to develop additional assessments or to adjust proficiency criteria for subpopulations other than for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
14. Are ALT ELPA results mailed to the district like the AZELLA results? If so, when will we receive hard copies of the spring results?
- Alt ELPA results were mailed to LEAs over the summer. Please contact your Alternate Assessment District Test Coordinator.
15. We have students who didn't go past the 4-question stopping rule on the Alt ELPA screener, according to our Alt ELPA DTC, so they have no score. How do we complete a Parental Notification & Consent form for these students? (no score is showing on their EL 70s)
- When the Early Stopping Rule is correctly applied, students do receive a score and proficiency level, in which case a PNC would then be sent home. In this rare incidence, please contact Alternate Assessment to discuss and resolve.