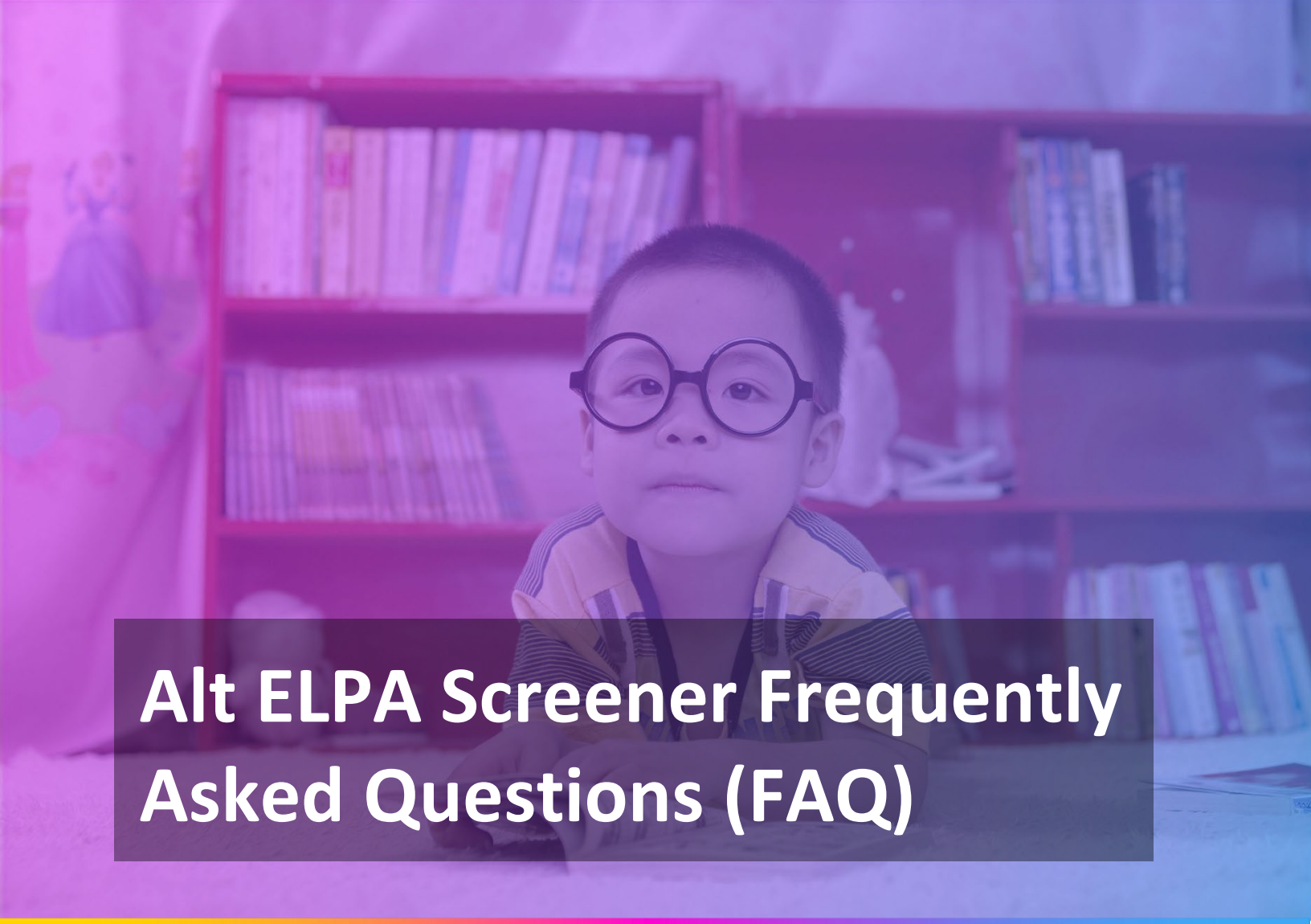




Alt ELPA Screener Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment
School Year 2026–2027



Table of Contents

General Questions	3
Alt ELPA Screener Accessibility	4
Alt ELPA Screener Scoring and Reporting	5

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. What is the purpose of the Alt ELPA Screener?

The Alt ELPA Screener is an English language screener. English language screeners are administered to students whose home language use surveys indicate that they may be English learners. The Alt ELPA Screener is designed to identify students who are eligible for English learner services.

2. How is the Alt ELPA Screener different from the ELPA21 Dynamic Screener?

The Alt ELPA Screener has assessment items and test administration practices that make the assessment accessible to students who have significant cognitive disabilities. The ELPA21 Dynamic Screener is accessible to the majority of potential English learners, while the Alt ELPA Screener is designed specifically for students with cognitive disabilities.

3. Who takes the Alt ELPA Screener?

State policy will determine whether the Alt ELPA Screener or the AZELLA Placement Test (Dynamic Screener) is administered.

[View Arizona inclusion criteria here.](#)

4. When can the Alt ELPA Screener be administered?

The Alt ELPA Screener can be administered throughout the school year, with a short window of “downtime” over the summer, to allow the testing system to transition to the new school year.

5. How is the Alt ELPA Screener administered?

The Alt ELPA Screener is administered one-to-one via a computer; it is accessed through the Cambium ELPA21 portal, like the AZELLA assessments. It is recommended that a second person be present to score the writing and speaking constructed response questions. See the [Alt ELPA Screener Test Administration Manual](#), Appendix B, for more information.

6. Who administers the Alt ELPA Screener?

The Alt ELPA Screener is administered by trained test administrators. A district employee who has completed the required training and is familiar with the student may administer alternate assessments. The Test Administrator must have their own account on the applicable platform. The ADE Test Security Agreement for Test Administrators must be signed and retained by the district for six years.

7. What training is required to administer the screener?

Test administrators who administer the Alt ELPA Screener should be trained on the test delivery platform, as well as on administering and scoring the assessment. All Alt ELPA



Screener training must be completed in ClearCourse before accessing any secure materials.

8. What is included on the Alt ELPA Screener?

The Alt ELPA Screener assesses the four language domains—listening, reading, speaking, and writing—as required by federal law.

9. How long is the Alt ELPA Screener?

For school year 2026–27, the Alt ELPA Screener includes four warm-up questions, then a total of 15 scored test questions across the four domains of language.

10. What do the test questions look like?

Test questions on the Alt ELPA Screener are very similar to those on the Alt ELPA Summative. Test questions are presented in a variety of accessible formats, including multiple choice, technology-enhanced, and constructed response. To learn more about the design of the Alt ELPA test questions and scoring rubric, please see the samples available in the [Alt ELPA Test Questions Brief](#).

11. If a student is administered the Alt ELPA Screener and qualifies for EL services, are they eligible for the Alt ELPA Summative Assessment?

Arizona requires the students meet eligibility criteria before participating in the Alt ELPA screener. Therefore, students who are eligible to take the Alt ELPA screener and did not demonstrate English language proficiency would be eligible to take the Alt ELPA summative provided that the IEP team does not change the alternate assessment eligibility determination prior to the administration of the Alt ELPA summative.

Alt ELPA Screener Accessibility

12. What accessibility supports are available on the Alt ELPA Screener?

The Alt ELPA Screener is designed to be accessible to students who may be English learners who also have a cognitive disability. For the full list of available accessibility supports, please consult the [Alt ELPA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) found on your state’s testing portal.

13. What if the student is not able to read the questions or respond?

The entire test can be read aloud to the student. The Alt ELPA Screener also has a process for educators to follow for students who do not have an observable mode of communication. This is explained in the [Alt ELPA Screener Test Administration Manual](#).

14. What if a student is not able to navigate the test independently?

Students who cannot navigate the test independently, or who need alternate modes of response, can still participate in the Alt ELPA Screener. Test administrators are permitted to assist students with test navigation and responding to test questions, as described in the [Alt ELPA Screener Test Administration Manual](#). Students may also use



their usual assistive technology as described in the [Alt ELPA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#).

15. Is there a braille version of the Alt ELPA Screener?

There is no braille version of the Alt ELPA Screener. Students may use their usual assistive technology as described in the [Alt ELPA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#).

16. Is there a paper-pencil version of the Alt ELPA Screener?

Most students' accessibility needs are better served with computer-based testing. For students who have an IEP that indicates paper testing, the testing platform's Print on Request feature can securely print test items.

17. Does the Alt ELPA Screener use tactile graphics?

There are no tactile graphics provided for the Alt ELPA Screener. Tactile graphics and manipulatives can be created by test administrators for the Alt ELPA assessments. Any tactile graphics and manipulatives created must be treated like other secure assessment materials and securely destroyed after use.

18. Are manipulatives allowable on the Alt ELPA Screener?

Manipulatives that are noted in a student's IEP are allowable, but not required, for the Alt ELPA Screener. Test administrators should consult the [Alt ELPA Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) for guidance regarding manipulatives.

Alt ELPA Screener Scoring and Reporting

19. What scores are produced by the Alt ELPA Screener?

The Alt ELPA Screener will provide a student's proficiency determination, modality and domain performance levels, and performance level descriptions.

20. When will screener data be provided?

In most cases, results are available on the same day as screener administration.

21. What are the scores used for?

The Alt ELPA Screener scores may be used to inform initial program eligibility decisions and classroom instruction for ELs, and to identify potential resource needs for both students and teachers.