

ELPA21 Update

6-2-16

Board Work Session Item 5.2.A.2

History of ELP Assessment in Nebraska:

2001: NCLB requires ELL students to be assessed annually on an ELP assessment that measures listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Title I, Title III)

2003-04: Creation of the English Language Development Assessment (ELDA)

- Funded through an Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG) on behalf of a state collaborative, of which Nebraska was a member state

2006-2015: Nebraska districts administer the ELDA

- Scores are used to determine Title III accountability

2012-to present: *Nebraska Rule 15, Regulations and Procedures for the Education of Students with Limited English Proficiency in Public Schools* goes into effect

- *Section 006.02—Each school district shall ensure that all LEP student participate in the annual state English language proficiency assessment.*
 - All Nebraska ELLs are required to take the assessment
 - Scores are used to exit students from the ELL status

2013: Nebraska becomes a member of a state-led collaborative (funded by an EAG) to develop a new online ELP assessment—the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)

- Construct Specialization of ELP tests: must assess grades K-12 in all four language domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
 - Listening and Speaking are challenging as a headset is required in order for the student to listen and speak; speech is recorded and scored later
 - Determines proficiency status in English, but also is also used measures a progression in the journey of becoming proficient (domain levels 1-5)
- ELPA21 and Nebraska Educator Involvement:
 - NDE staff involved at a very high level in test development to ensure the instrument is of high quality and meets the needs of our districts
 - Items written to the Nebraska ELP Standards
 - Nebraska teachers participated in its development
 - Item writers
 - Content and bias reviews
 - Blind/low vision item reviews
 - Range finding on constructed responses

- Standard setting/Contrasting group studies
- Participation in field test

2015-16: ELPA21 summative assessment administered in Nebraska – Vendor: Questar (1 Year)

Future: Sustaining ELPA21 upon conclusion of the grant-funded period:

- ELPA21 will be managed and housed at University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (CRESST)
- States enter into 3-year agreement with UCLA to gain access to the test and services
 - **Member** services include:
 - Administrative services
 - Item development
 - Test development
 - Assessment research and reporting
 - Standard setting
 - Scoring development
 - Member engagement (quality control, professional development)
 - Test administration
 - Implementation support
 - Scoring and reporting
 - Includes delivery of screener instrument used for identification of ELLs in Nebraska districts; this would result in a cost savings to districts as this is currently an LEA responsibility—districts would have the option of using the ELPA21 screener at no additional cost

Estimated member cost for Year 1 based on 20,000 students:

- \$26 X 19,800 online tests = \$514,800
- \$30 X 200 paper pencil forms = \$6,000
- \$200 X 3 braille forms = \$600
- Total Year 1 estimated cost = \$521, 400
- 3-year estimate = \$1,604,000
 - Funding source— federal assessment funds

NDE Recommendation: Contract with UCLA for Comprehensive Member Services for the following reasons:

- Continuation of an assessment NDE staff and Nebraska teachers have worked hard to develop
- NDE staff and Nebraska teachers would remain involved in the ELPA21 leadership and future test development
- Psychometric aspects of test development include Nebraska student data generated as a result of field testing Nebraska students

- ELPA21 items (both summative and screener items) were written to the Nebraska ELP Standards
- Added cost benefit of newly developed screener used for identification of ELL students is included in the package
- Cost savings due to economy of scale
- Nebraska would not need to release a RFP for a test vendor; competitive bidding process will be through UCLA on behalf of member states