



To: K-12 Educators in ELPA21 States

From: American Institutes for Research (AIR) and the ELPA21 Consortium

Date: January 19, 2017

Re: ELPA21 Screener Pilot Study Recruitment

Greetings,

In preparation for the launch of the ELPA21 Operational Screener, the ELPA21 consortium is partnering with our vendor, American Institutes for Research (AIR), to conduct a pilot study of the ELPA21 Screener. We are looking to gain crucial insights that will inform the improvements we make to the ELPA21 assessment system in order to best serve English language learners. We would like to extend an invitation to you and your students to participate in this exciting opportunity!

Benefits of participating in the pilot of the ELPA21 Screener include:

- Early experience for Test Administrators to experience the online screener
- Advance understanding of the time requirements for the new screener process
- Critical information to the test designers about when and at which point(s) early stopping rules may be developed
- Opportunity to provide feedback for the final screener test forms

The dates for the Screener Pilot Study test window are January 30th through approximately June, 2017. The ending date of the study could vary by state. The pilot will remain open as long as possible to include as many students as possible. Early participation is encouraged. Remember that the ELPA21 screener is an online assessment. Students will need to have a computer for testing, and the Test Administrator will need a separate device in order to run the testing session with the student. More information about the technology requirements will be provided during the Screener Pilot training.

Below are the various populations of students who we hope to include in this pilot:

- New, potential ELLs arriving during the Pilot Study test window. Please note that these students should still be administered the operational (commercial) screener currently in use; student-level results from the ELPA21 Pilot Study will not be reported or available for use in making eligibility/proficiency determinations
- Students who were screened during SY2016-17, regardless of result (whether classified as **Initial Fluent English Proficient** or not)

- Any incoming Kindergarten student (who will begin Kindergarten in SY2017-2018) who is registered for Kindergarten during the Pilot Study window (note that these students are eligible to participate in the screener regardless of whether they are considered a potential English Language Learner or not, based on home language survey)
- Students who are English Only (per their Home Language Survey)
- **Fluent English Proficient** students reclassified within the last two years (SY 2015-16 through the first months of 2016-17)

If you are interested in participating in the pilot and will have students that fall into one or more of the categories noted above, please complete a brief registration form, which can be accessed by clicking the link below.

[ELPA21 Screener Pilot Test Administrator Registration Form](#)

Note: For each Screener Pilot Test Administrator, there is an opportunity for incentives! ELPA21 would like to offer a reward opportunity for the Test Administrators for their per-student participation in this pilot, with one prize per grade. Information about the incentives will be provided during the Screener Pilot training. In addition, while this is strictly a volunteer activity, test administrators could request that their district administrators consider this time as evidence of Professional Growth as outlined in Nebraska State Statute 79-830.

Please note that the survey asks for the name and email address of your District Test Coordinator. Please be sure to have that information available prior to starting the survey.

Details about Test Administrator training for the ELPA21 Screener Pilot will be sent to those educators who express interest in participating in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact your state representatives for ELPA21: Terri Schuster at terri.schuster@nebraska.gov or Brooke David at brooke.david@nebraska.gov.

Thank you in advance for playing a crucial role in the development of our assessment system for English language learners.

Sincerely,

Terri Schuster
Director, Title III