August 4, 2017
ELPA21 SCREENER IMPORTANT INFO

DACs and ELPA21 Contacts:

The ELPA21 Screener is now online for districts to use for the purpose of identification of English Learners. It fully meets the requirements of Rule 15, Section 003 and is now available at no cost to your district. You may use it in place of any of the commercially available instruments such as the LAS, IPT, or Woodcock-Munoz. You may use it with all, some, or none of your incoming potential ELs. We do not, however, recommend that students be double-tested.

The ELPA21 Screener is administered online through a secure browser very much like the ELPA21 Summative. Access is through the AIR Portal. http://ne.portal.airast.org. If you are the DAC, you should already be registered as a District User in TIDE (where you manage testers). You will need to change your password as they have been reset. If you are not the DAC or had not previously accessed TIDE, your DAC will need to add you as a user if it is your role to administer the assessment. You will also want to sign up for AIR email alerts (top right corner) if you are not receiving them.

Here are some things to know about accessing the ELPA21 Screener:

- On the portal home page you can find all the manuals you need to administer the assessment under the Resources tab. Please take time to look them over.
    - o   Be sure to include your tech folks while preparing to deliver the assessment—there are guides for Technical Specs, Secure Browser Installation, and System Requirements— these should be the same as for the ELPA21 Summative assessment.
    - o   You will find an Online Screener Test Admin Manual (TAM), Test Admin User Guide, TIDE User Guide, and an Accessibility and Accommodations Manual. Note: No need to look at the DEI manual unless you are administering a paper/pencil form (see below).

- To set up access to the actual assessment, click on Operational Test Administration—this is where you go to start the Screener and where you will go to start the ELPA21 Summative during the testing window once it becomes available. Note: As the Test Administrator, you will not "see" the actual screener on your screen, however, once it is set up on the student's device, they will see it after you approve their session. Be sure to refer to TA User Guide for setting up a test.
- You will notice that in addition to the grade cluster tests that mirror the ELPA21 Summative—K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12, there is a Screener test option that is labeled **Pre-K.**
    - o   The Pre-K and Kindergarten screener assessments are the same instrument. Either version is intended for pre-screening Kindergarten students and students entering Kindergarten at the beginning and throughout the year. The difference is where the cuts are placed. The Pre-K screener cuts are set lower.
    - o   In 2017-18, districts may decide which instrument to use depending on the situation. For example, a district may decide to use only the Kindergarten screener for students pre-screening and entering at any time throughout the year. Or a district may decide to use the Pre-K Screener for students entering Kindergarten and then use the Kindergarten instrument for students entering throughout the year. **The screener is NOT intended for any students entering Pre-K or enrolling in any preschool program.**   It was not field-tested on any Pre-K students.

- Once DACs have familiarized themselves with how to deliver the assessment, appropriate training should be planned for other staff members assigned to administer the assessment. Be sure to check out the Webinars and Training tab under Resources for modules addressing various screener topics.

- Students will need to be assigned a unique state ID—in the event of one not yet being available, a temporary ID can be used in order to avoid a delay in testing the student.

- All K-12 students are expected to take the online form of the assessment—there is no paper/pencil component to K-1
    - An exception is the rare occasion when a student's disability (or yet to be identified disability) precludes them from doing so. Because students are just enrolling in the district, not all disabilities will be able to be identified in advance on an IEP or 504. If this is the case, a paper/pencil form is available. Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Lexington, and South Sioux City have already received shipments of the paper/pencil forms. All other districts will need to contact Terri or Brooke directly to see if a paper/pencil form is appropriate and, if so, have one sent out to you.
    - Note: If you administer a paper/pencil form, you will need to enter the student's answers into the online system through the Data Entry Interface (DEI)—be sure to review this manual.

- For 2017-18, the test will be scored by the testing company at a centralized scoring location. You can expect results in up to 7 days. For 2018-19, we will be able to utilize a local scoring option which will result in a faster return.

- Score reports will accessed much like the ELPA21 Summative Reports—through the Online Reporting System (ORS) which is also found on the portal. They will look similar in nature to the summative reports.

- For set-up questions and other technical assistance, please contact the AIR Helpdesk at 866.287.5617 or email at neelpa21helpdesk@air.org.

Please contact Brooke brooke.david@nebraska.gov 402.471.2451 or Terri terri.schuster@nebraska.gov 402.471.4694 with policy or Title III questions.

Thank you,
Terri

Terri A. Schuster

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