



Multilingual Learners Newsletter

November 2024

Practice Opportunities for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening

Now is a perfect time to provide practice opportunities for English learners with the ELPA21 Practice Tests. These can be found on the [Nebraska Cambium Portal](#). Students can become familiar with the [tools available](#) for the ELPA21 Summative and Alt ELPA Assessment and practice the types of questions in all four domains. For the ELPA21 Summative Practice, there is a long and short version for kindergarten, with a good variety of questions in every grade band. See [#of Questions](#)

The Alt ELPA Practice Tests have [resources](#) with test administrator directions and scoring booklets for each grade band to help the TAs become familiar with the test as well as giving students the opportunity to practice using the platform and using their language skills. There is also a resource with the [#of Questions](#).

Students can sign on to the practice tests as a guest or the teacher can set up sessions for the students to practice logging in with their name and session ID number. Practice is something that benefits all - students and teachers!



ELPA21 Tool Button Image and Description Sheet

When providing to individual students, this sheet may not be used as scratch paper. TAs must immediately collect this sheet and process according to the school's Test Security and Building Plan.

Row #	Button Image	Button Name	Tool Button Descriptions
Rows 1-15 will be used by all students			
1		Question Mark (Help)	Shows the Instructions page at any time during the test. It is located in the top right corner of the screen.
2		X (Close)	When selected will close the current screen.
3		Zoom	Make the words and pictures on the screen bigger or smaller.
4		Items drop-down list	Click the dropdown menu to move to any stimulus or question on the test.
5		Save	Save your response to a question (Answers are automatically saved even if you do not click this button.)
6		Pause	Exit the test before finishing. (Raise your hand for help before choosing this button on your own.)
7		Next	Moves you to the next question on the test.
8		Back	Goes back to the previous question on the test.
9		Expansion Tool	Makes the left side of the screen larger or smaller.
10		Unanswered Question Flag	Flags unanswered questions on the review screen. Click to return to the question.
11		Replay	Replays directions, stimulus, text, or question in the Listening, Speaking, and Writing sections that you have already played.
12		Microphone	Starts the recording of your answer in the Speaking section.
13		Stop	Click to end the recording of your answer in the Speaking section.
14		Play	Replays the recording of your spoken response in the Speaking section.
Rows 16-21 may be useful for students in grades 4-12			
15		Context Menu	Opens a list of tools to use with the item. The list varies by item type. Most include the Tutorial, Notepad, Mark/Unmark Review Item, Highlighter, and Strikethrough.
16		Notepad	Type notes to yourself about a passage or question to read later. A pencil with a checkmark indicates that you took notes for that question.
17		Mark for Review	Marks a question for you to look at again later.
18		Highlighter	Mark key words or areas. Select the text first, then click on the Context Menu to select Highlight Selection. Click the remove highlight button to remove some of your highlighting. Click the Reset Highlighting button to remove all of your highlighting.
19		Strikethrough	Get rid of answer choices not needed.
20		Hand Pointer	Allows the selection of information on a tool bar.

Preparing for Testing

SYSTEM



Practice Tests

Become familiar with the testing system and types of questions on the operational tests.

Please Sign In



Guest User

Toggle to sign in as yourself



Guest Session

Toggle to join an active session

Your Tests

Select the test you need to take.

Student Grade Level:

Select Grade

Please select a grade.

✓ Select Grade

KG

PK

1

2

3

4

5

6



Spotlight: Amanda Skalka - Sandy Creek School District

Like all small school administrators, Amanda wears many hats. One of these is screening and assessing Multilingual Learners. The multilingual student population in her district has shifted from less than 5 students annually to 14 to 22 students annually. We know that practice opportunities are beneficial for students but it does take organization and intentional planning. Amanda uses an [ELPA 21 testing hyperdoc](#) to keep all of this information in one location: testing website, manuals, student schedules, testing window dates, district calendar dates, and practice and testing check off lists. Amanda has graciously shared her [ELPA21 practice protocol](#) and [hyperdoc](#) so that others can make a copy and use it! Thank you, Amanda!

Guidance: The Office of Civil Rights has added K'iche', Mam, and Somali translations for its fact sheets *Protecting Access to Education for Migratory Children* and *Protecting Access to Education for Unaccompanied Children*. Facts sheets can be found on their website,

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/frontpage/pro-students/issues/roi-issue03.html>.

ELPA21 and Alt ELPA Assessments: Always remember test security. If any secure items are printed for teachers or students, they must be handled with security (kept in a locked storage, delivered in an envelope, etc) and shredded immediately at the end of the testing window.

[Secure Browser ChromeOS updates 2024](#)

Additional Resources:

- ELPA21 Workshops: free for any educator in our state! [Sign up here!](#)
- Guidance from NDE around the use of AI - Coming Soon!
- [Dear Colleague](#) letter clarifying the use of federal funds for arts education under Titles I, II, III, IV-A of ESSA, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and the IDEA. [Press Release](#)
- Check out the [Seal of Biliteracy Heatmap](#) that gives state data on the percentage of HS students earning the SOBL.
- Colorin Colorado [Multilingual Resources for Families](#)
- OELA [EL Family Toolkit App Tutorial Videos](#) in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic.
- WestEd [English Learners' Access to Core Content](#)
- Please remember to use the resources in [TransACT ParentNotices!](#) There are documents to support all areas of education. NDE provides the subscription and anyone can [self-onboard](#).

Questions: Please contact us with any questions or concerns regarding your ML students or program.



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