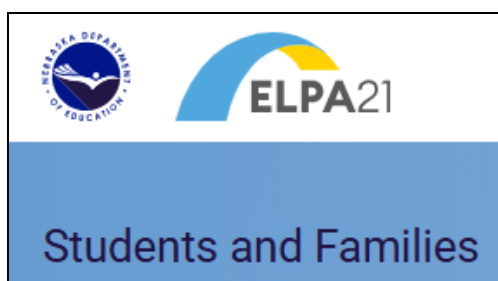




English/Multilingual Learners Newsletter December 2025

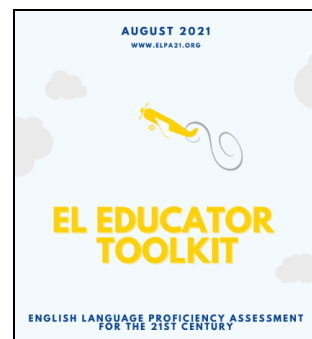
Practice Opportunities for English Learners to Prepare for the ELPA21 Summative and Alt ELPA Assessment



The [Nebraska Cambium Portal](#) offers practice opportunities for the ELPA21 Assessments. Students and families can log on and participate at home and teachers can provide opportunities for students at school. The ELPA21 practices are presented by grade bands and domains. Resources provide the number of items for [the ELPA21](#) and [Alt ELPA](#) practice tests. In addition, the Alt ELPA has [practice directions and scoring rubrics](#). The advantages of using the ELPA21 Practice Opportunities include exposure to the testing platform, becoming familiar with the types of test items, and using the [tools](#)

such as zoom, highlighting, and mark for review. Some teachers have used the various domain practice tests periodically throughout the first semester and some provide exposure to all of the practice tests in January just prior to the summative testing window. When students and teachers are comfortable with the testing platform and tools, they can focus on their performance when they take the summative assessment.

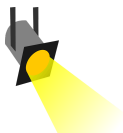
In addition to the practice opportunities offered through Cambium, ELPA21 has created Toolkits with tasks that provide practice in all four domains. The first year (2021) the [EL Educator Toolkit](#) was free to all educators. The tasks provide opportunities for students in all grade bands to practice [reading](#), [writing](#), [speaking](#), and [listening](#) with rubrics to provide feedback. Additional Toolkits (2022, 2023) can be purchased through [NABE](#).



There are rubrics and checklists aligned to the ELP Standards that districts can use to assess their students' performance throughout the school year. These are available on the [Nebraska EL Resources Shared Drive](#). Educators just need to request permission to join. The [rubrics and checklists](#) can be found in the formative assessment folder. [This spreadsheet](#) organizes the rubrics/checklists by ELP and grade band and provides links to these resources.. These rubrics and checklists help provide feedback to students about their skills and language production. They can also serve to guide instruction that will prepare students for the tasks they will be asked to do on the ELPA21 Summative or Alt ELPA Assessment.

****As a reminder, districts need to make sure their student information systems have accurate EL information so that all English learners who need to be tested are coded correctly and any students who have already met proficiency are not tested. The NDE upload will be **January 7, 2026**. The English Language Testing report in Advisor is a good one to check. [ELPA21 Training Modules](#) open December 1, 2025.**

ELP Standard 5: conduct research and evaluate and communicate findings to answer questions and solve problems				
4th - 5th Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recall information from experience gather information from a few provided sources label some key information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recall information from experience gather information from provided sources record some information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recall information from experience gather information from print and digital sources to answer a question identify key information in orderly notes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recall information from experience gather information from print and digital sources to answer a question record information in organized notes, with charts, tables, or other graphics, as appropriate provide a list of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recall information from experience gather information from print and digital sources to summarize key ideas and information in orderly notes, with graphics as appropriate provide a list of sources.
How can it be assessed?	Checklist			
			Yes	No/Yet
The student can correctly recall the information.				
The student can gather information from print and digital sources.				
The student can correctly answer questions about the information.				
The student can summarize key details and information.				
The student uses the correct academic vocabulary.				
The student uses an appropriate sentence structure to answer the question.				
Rating Scale	The student receives a rating based on student performance on the following indicators.			
	1	2	3	4
The student can recall information through gestures, pictures, or one-two words that may have a few errors.				
The student can recall information and answer a question using simple sentences; may have a few errors.				
The student can recall information and answer a question using simple and compound sentences that may have a few errors.				
The student can recall information and answer a question using complete simple, compound and complex sentences				
The student can recall information and answer a question using complete simple, compound and complex sentences				



South Sioux City Community Schools

Tracy Garvey
South Sioux City Community Schools
ELPA21 and Alt ELPA
Practice Opportunities

Tracy and her team at South Sioux City have been working on expanding practice opportunities for students as well as increasing awareness for all staff of the language skills students need to meet proficiency on the ELPA21 Summative assessment and Alt ELPA assessment. Last year, they implemented an “all hands on deck” approach and had such positive results, they are doing it again this year. To learn more about their approach read [Tracy’s description](#). Tracy will also share more at our EL Coalition meeting December 12, 2025. To get the zoom link, go to the [EL Coalition One-Stop-Shop](#).

Guidance: TITLE I: SECTION 1112(e)(3) AND (e)(4) OF THE ESEA (20 USC 6312)

There are Title I requirements for notifying parents of their children’s EL status and their right to opt their children out of EL programs or particular EL services. SEAs and LEAs that receive Title I or Title III funds should be familiar with the requirements of Title I and Title III and ensure parental notification letters include all statutorily required elements. More information can be found in the [English Learner Toolkit](#), Chapter 7, page 4. [Rule 15](#) also provides this guidance in Section 003: Identification of English Learners.

Additional Resources:

- NEBLA - New Nebraska Languages Association for all language educators in NE. Please complete [this survey](#).
- [Pathwise](#) (formerly TransACT ParentNotices) There are documents to support all areas of education. NDE currently provides the subscription and anyone can [self-onboard](#). [Log in here](#). (The subscription with NDE will end after this school year.)
- [Cult of Pedagogy](#) - so many topics and resources! Watch the [short video](#) to get an overview.
- [English Learner Success Forum](#)
- [Nebraska Literacy Project](#)
- [Nebraska School, Family and Community Engagement Framework](#)
- [Literacy Resources](#) - Families, Communities, Schools ([Implementation Guide for Districts](#)) - [Canvas course](#)
- SERP [STARI](#) resource - join the [community forum](#) or view past meetings to learn more!
- [SummitK12](#) - offers resources to support EL/ML with alignment to ELPA21. Could be a good progress monitoring tool.
- [Storyworld](#) - great resource for EL/ML students.



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



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