

## What is ELPA21?

The English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) measures your child's proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening to, and understanding English. ELPA21 defines "proficiency" as the ability to use the English language to communicate ideas, knowledge, and information. This assessment is based on the English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards, which are designed to address the language abilities that students need to be successful in school and beyond.



## What are the ELP Standards?

The 10 ELP Standards define what English language skills students should have at specific grade levels. They emphasize the shift away from approaching language and content separately, and focus on measuring the language skills your child needs to fully access the general education curriculum. These standards will be used by both English as a Second Language (ESL) and content-area teachers to help prepare your child for success in English language arts, mathematics, and science.

## When will my child take ELPA21?

ELPA21 is given each year in the early spring from February 15 to April 15. Contact your school district's representative (see below) for more specific information.



Website: [elpa21.org](http://elpa21.org)

## ELPA21 in my state

### Iowa ELPA21 Representative

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### Your School Representative

Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Website:

# A Family's Guide to ELPA21

The English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



**ELPA21**  
English Language Proficiency  
Assessment for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



## Who takes ELPA21?

Students who have been identified as English language learners (ELLs)\* will be required to take ELPA21. The

Elementary and Secondary School Act of 2001 requires a yearly assessment of English proficiency for all students who have been identified as ELLs. ELPA21 measures the progress your child is making in achieving English proficiency.

*\*Using the federal definition of "English language learner"*

## How is ELPA21 used to help my child?

The main purpose of ELPA21 is to qualify students for appropriate language services and help guide schools to best support student needs. While ELPA21 does not count toward high school graduation, it does determine whether your student receives the extra help he or she may need to fully participate and be successful in school.

## How can I help my child get ready?

You are an important partner in your child's education. Here are some things you can do to help prepare your child for ELPA21:

- Visit <http://iowaelpa21.portal.airast.org/students-and-families/> for information about how to access ELPA21's interactive practice tests, which are intended to help your child become familiar with the test questions.
- Speak to your child's teacher about which areas of English your child needs to focus on improving.
- Set aside time every day to have your child read his or her favorite books to you.



## How will I find out my child's ELPA21 score?

Your school will provide you with a full report of your child's performance on ELPA21.

## How is ELPA21 different from previous assessments?

ELPA21 is a computer-based test that is designed to be engaging and interactive. It includes innovative questions that reflect classroom and real-world scenarios. See below for an example of one of ELPA21's drag-and-drop sample items.

### Sample Item:

#### Grade 1: Listening: Follow Instructions

Look at this classroom. Listen to the teacher. Follow the teacher's directions. "Put the ruler on the bookshelf."



## What happens when my child is no longer an ELL?

Your child will no longer take ELPA21. He or she will stop receiving specialized English language services, but may continue to receive some additional support and will be monitored for two years.

For more information about ELPA21, visit [elpa21.org](http://elpa21.org)