

ELPA21 Braille Version Testing Information for School District Staff

School Year 2020-21

The ELPA21 Braille Version (BV) summative assessment (formerly called the Blind/Low Vision summative assessment) was designed to measure the same English language proficiency standards as the online ELPA21 summative assessment for the four domains of Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. Some task types were developed specifically for the Braille Version. The assessment was also designed to follow, as closely as possible, the general testing conditions of the online assessment. It is advisable, but not required, that the Test Administrator (TA) is able to read braille.

Test design

As with the online, paper, and large print test versions, the BV summative assessment is divided into four domain tests: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. These can be administered in a single day or on different days, and students should be given an appropriate break between each domain test.

What does a TA need to administer the test?

Braille Version tests are shipped in a single box, which is the “kit” for testing. There is a single kit per box, and the box should be kept to return the materials later. It contains everything a TA needs other than a braille writer or slate and stylus for some writing domain responses. See list of kit contents under “Prior to test administration” below. The TA will need to become familiar with the Data Entry Interface (DEI), which is used to complete the Speaking domain and enter student responses as outlined in the instructions. To become familiar, the TA should access the DEI User Guide and the DEI training module, which are found on the state’s testing portal for ELPA21.

Prior to test administration

Prior to administering the assessment, the TA must review and verify that all kit items, including all manipulatives, arrived in the box. The TA should load paper in the braille writer or have a slate and stylus ready prior to administering the Writing test. Responses to some Writing items are printed out and then saved inside the student’s test booklet for scoring. As mentioned above, the TA should review the DEI User Guide and the DEI training module prior to administering the test.

The BV testing kit contains:

- Directions for Administration (DFA) document
- Student Test Booklet (in either contracted or uncontracted braille)

- CD for the audio prompts for relevant test items
- Manipulative items kit for relevant Listening and Reading items (varies by grade band)

Test and item security

All items in the BV testing kits are secure materials and must be kept in a secure location when not in use. A secure location might include a locked cabinet or a locked secure room. No information about the content of the specific test items is allowed to be shared with other teachers or the public. All testing kits must be returned after administration of the assessment has been completed.

Data entry of student responses

For Listening, Reading, and some Writing responses, the TA will enter the student answers into the DEI. The DFA outlines specific test questions that must be entered into the DEI prior to submitting the test for scoring. For the Speaking domain, the TA will record students' vocal responses to all Speaking items on the test using the DEI's recording feature.

What group of students should be administered this version of the ELPA21 assessment?

The ELPA21 BV summative assessment is a print version developed to meet the accessibility needs of English learners who are blind or who have low vision. This version of the ELPA21 summative assessment is accessible for students who read contracted or uncontracted braille. Some of the BV test domains are accessible for English learners with low vision who do not yet read braille, but for whom the magnification features on the online version or the Large Print versions are insufficient for students to be able to complete at least one domain test. See the following table for accessible domains for students who do not yet read braille.

Accessibility for students who do not yet read braille

Grade Band	Accessible domains without braille knowledge*
Kindergarten	Listening, Reading, and Speaking domains
Grade 1	Listening and Speaking domains
Grade Band 2-3	Listening domain
Grade Band 4-5	Listening domain
Grade Band 6-8	Listening domain
Grade Band 9-12	Listening domain

*For non-accessible domains, the student's IEP should be updated prior to administration of the test so the student may be exempted from any non-accessible domains. Domain exemptions must be programmed into TIDE prior to the data entry of the student responses. Follow your state's procedure to apply this accessibility option.