

Information for Parents and Guardians English Language Proficiency Assessment Grades 9, 11, and 12

The *English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)* is an assessment of students' reading comprehension skills based on the *Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum Outcomes* (Grade 8) and the *New Brunswick Provincial Achievement Standards in Reading* (end of Grade 8).

Results obtained from the *ELPA* provide information about individual student achievement in literacy and are used by schools, districts, and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to track program effectiveness.

Who participates in the English Language Proficiency Assessment?

The *ELPA* is compulsory for all students in **Grade 9** unless an exemption is granted. It is a high school graduation requirement. Results are expressed as: *Strong Achievement*, *Appropriate Achievement*, and *Below Appropriate Achievement*. Students must score an *Appropriate Achievement* or higher to meet this requirement.

Students in **Grades 11 and 12** who do not attain the *Appropriate Achievement* level in Grade 9, or who receive a temporary exemption, have the opportunity to rewrite the assessment. These students **do not participate** in the assessment during their Grade 10 year, which provides the opportunity for targeted literacy intervention before they rewrite the *ELPA* in Grade 11.

Are accommodations available?

Accommodations are alterations that do not jeopardize the integrity or content of the assessment. Such accommodations ensure all students have a fair opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do. Not all accommodations available in the classroom setting are appropriate for provincial assessments. For more information please refer to: [Provincial Assessment Program: Protocols for Accommodations and Exemptions](#).

The use of dictionaries, thesauri, and translation devices is not permitted for the *ELPA*.

Who may be exempted?

A student may be granted an exemption from participating in the *ELPA* when justified by their Personalized Learning Plan (PLP). Approval of parents/guardians, school principal, district, and EECD is required. A permanent or temporary exemption may be granted.

When do students write the ELPA?

The *ELPA* is written during the high school exam period each January.

What is the format of the ELPA?

The *ELPA* consists of several reading passages and 50 multiple choice questions. This assessment is administered online. A practice assessment will be available to ensure students are comfortable with the online format. All students are encouraged to participate.

Content

To ensure alignment with our provincial standards, a review committee of New Brunswick educators selected the content of the assessment. Students have 90 minutes to complete the assessment, with up to 90 additional minutes, if needed.

Text Types:

- 4 Literary texts
- 4 Informational texts

Question Types:

- Literal Responses 20%
- Inferential/Interpretive Responses 60%
- Personal/Critical/Evaluative Responses 20%

How are the results reported?

Students receive individual reports. In addition, results for each school and school district are published on EECD's website, under [Reports on Achievement](#).

Where can I find more information?

Information about the *ELPA* can be found on the Education and Early Childhood Development website under [Assessment and Evaluation \(High School\)](#).

If you have questions, please contact the Assessment, Analysis, and Design Services Branch, Anglophone Division at (506) 453-2744.