



Information for Parents and Guardians
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT / REASSESSMENT
January 18-27, 2012

The English Language Proficiency Assessment / Reassessment (ELPA/R) is an assessment of students' literacy skills based on the *Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum (Grade 8)* and the New Brunswick *Provincial Achievement Standards in Reading and Writing (end of Grade 8)*. Data obtained from the ELPA/R provide information about individual student achievement and offer a perspective on trends in school, district, and provincial achievement in literacy.

Who will participate in the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA)?

The English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) is compulsory for all students in **Grade 9**, unless an exemption is obtained. It is a High School Graduation Requirement and students must obtain a minimum score of Appropriate Achievement (AA) in both the Reading Comprehension Component and the Writing Component in order to meet this requirement.

Who will participate in the English Language Proficiency Reassessment (ELPR)?

The English Language Proficiency Reassessment (ELPR), which is identical to the ELPA, will be written by students in **Grades 11 and 12** who have not obtained a minimum score of Appropriate Achievement (AA) in one or both components of the ELPA/R, unless an exemption is obtained. Students will rewrite only those components in which they have not yet obtained a score of at least Appropriate Achievement (AA). Students in **Grade 10** who were previously unsuccessful in one or both components of the ELPA **will not** participate in the assessment during their Grade 10 year. This will allow them to receive targeted intervention in literacy before they write the ELPR in Grade 11.

Who may be exempt?

Any student whose Special Education Plan justifies him or her not participating in the ELPA/R may be exempt with the approval of parents or guardians, the Principal, District Learning Specialist for Student Services, and Director of Education. An exemption may be sought on either a permanent or a temporary basis.

Are accommodations available?

For the purpose of provincial assessments, accommodations are alterations that do not jeopardize the integrity or content of the test, yet give students an equal opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do as part of the assessment process. Not all accommodations available for classroom instruction and assessment use are appropriate for provincial assessments. The following accommodations are available for the ELPA/R: large print, coloured paper, Braille, extended time, speech-to-text devices, and Centres of Excellence or medical settings. The need for these accommodations must be documented within the student's Special Education Plan. Requests for accommodations also require the approval of the Principal, District Learning Specialist for Student Services, and the Director of Education.

Further information on exemptions and accommodations can be found at:
<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/publications/eval/AssessmentProtocols.pdf>

When will students write the ELPA/R?

The ELPA/R will be written during the period of January 18-27, 2012.

What will the Reading Comprehension Component be like?

The Reading Comprehension Component is designed to measure student performance in comparison to the *Provincial Reading Achievement Standards (end of grade 8)* and the *Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum Outcomes (grade 8)*. In order to ensure that it is fully aligned with our provincial standards, a review committee of New Brunswick educators selected the contents of the assessment. The format is as follows: Information Text (4 passages) and Literary Text (4 passages); Literal questions (20%), Inferential/Interpretive questions (60%), and Personal/Critical/Evaluative questions (20%). This component will consist of 8 passages and 50 selected-response (multiple-choice) items. Students will have 90 minutes to complete the component with up to 90 extra minutes if needed. The use of dictionaries, thesauri and translation devices is **not** permitted in the Reading Comprehension Component.

What will the Writing Component be like?

The Writing Component is based on the *Provincial Writing Achievement Standards (end of grade 8)* and the *Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum Outcomes (grade 8)*. This component consists of two sections: Writing I and Writing II. In each section, students independently complete a piece of writing in response to a writing prompt they have selected from the list of prompts provided. Students have 60 minutes to complete each section with up to 60 extra minutes if needed. Writing prompts have been developed by a committee of New Brunswick educators and are designed to align with forms of writing outlined in the provincial standards. During the Writing Component, students may have access to dictionaries, thesauri, word walls, and other writing tools they would normally use. Students may **not** have access to previously completed drafts or writing assignments. Translation devices are **not** permitted. The use of computers is permitted during the Writing Component; however, the spell check and auto-correct functions **must be disabled** for the duration of the assessment.

How is the ELPAR scored?

The Reading Comprehension Component will be machine scored. The Writing Component will be scored by New Brunswick educators at a provincial marking session. Both Writing I and Writing II will be evaluated. The stronger of the two pieces will be assessed according to the traits of writing outlined in the *Provincial Writing Achievement Standards (end of grade 8)* and will receive the final score.

How will the results be reported?

Results of the Reading Comprehension Component will be reported as an overall achievement of Strong Achievement (SA), Appropriate Achievement (AA), or Experiencing Difficulty (ED) and by percentage of questions correct for each genre (Literary and Information) and question type (Literal, Inferential/Interpretive, and Personal/Critical/Evaluative).

Results of the Writing Component will be reported as an overall achievement (SA, AA, ED) and by individual traits of writing (Content, Organization, Word Choice, Voice, Sentence Structure, and Conventions). Individual reports of these results will be issued.

Where can I find more information?

Information about the ELPAR can be found on the GNB website under Assessment and Evaluation at:

<http://www.gnb.ca/0000/anglophone-e.asp#e>

If you have any questions, please contact the Assessment and Evaluation Branch, Anglophone Sector, at (506) 453-2744.