

The State of Michigan has developed a statewide language assessment – English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). Statewide administration of ELPA meets federal assessment requirements for ELLs as specified in the No Child Left Behind legislation of 2001. Schools around the state will no longer need to convert the results from a variety of English language proficiency tests to state-determined proficiency levels for federal reporting purposes. Michigan’s ELPA is a customized assessment. It is designed to be aligned with the Michigan English language proficiency standards, which were approved by the State Board of Education in 2004.

ELPA will assess both academic language (CALP) and social language (BICS). It is divided into four grade-level spans: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12, which correspond to the grade spans in Michigan’s English Language Proficiency standards. Each assessment contains four sections: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The test can be administered in small group settings with the exception of the speaking section.

ELPA will now be used at the official State assessment for Title III reporting. ELPA results will show progress on the attainment of Michigan’s ELP Standards. All students in grades K-12 enrolled in public schools, charter schools, and private schools receiving Title III funding with LEA assessment agreements - who are eligible for services (see Federal definition of LEP students) - will be assessed. Eligibility is determined by a) Home Language Survey, b) federal description of LEP student, and c) student scoring below grade level proficiency.