

2012 Spring ELPA Exemption Requests

Exemption requests for the Spring 2012 ELPA can now be made through the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability's (BAA) Secure Site. The window for making requests opens on **December 5, 2011**. Please note that exemptions are only available for English Language Learners whose disabilities prevent them from being meaningfully assessed by one or more sections of the Spring ELPA.

Secure Site users can go to the ELPA Exemption Request page on the Secure Site to identify each student for whom a request is being made. Students will, therefore, need a valid UIC in order to process the request. Users may also need to provide the following information:

- What other state assessments the student has taken or is expected to take;
- A description of the student's impairment;
- The domains (sections) for which an exemption is being requested.

Depending on the information provided by the user, further documentation from the student's IEP may be needed in order for the BAA to make a determination. If a student does not already appear on the Pre-ID list, add them to the list prior to attempting to make the request.

Spring ELPA Exemption Guidance:

- In the majority of cases, students who have an assessment history of taking the MEAP or MEAP Access will be denied an exemption from the Spring ELPA. Exceptions include rapid onset medical emergencies.
- All Kindergartners should take the ELPA. This allows for baseline data and records that an attempt was made to follow state and federal regulations requiring the assessment of the student.
- Students who have an assessment history of MI-Access Participation may receive an exemption from all domains. However, this is not an automatic exemption. Districts must request the exemption through BAA.
- Students who have an assessment history of MI-Access Functional Independence and Supported Independence, may receive an exemption from one or more domains. In many cases, supporting documentation (IEP, etc.) will be requested for these students.

Users may also use the Secure Site to access an exemption request list and print off individual approvals and denials. It is recommended that districts check the Secure Site on a weekly basis until all Exemption Requests are closed.

It is recommended that any Spring ELPA Exemption Request approvals/denials be kept with the student's permanent records as well as considered during IEP evaluations. Exemption approvals are only good for 1 year and *all* requests must be made on an annual basis. The deadline for requesting an exemption is **February 24, 2012**. If you have any questions about the exemption process, please email BAA@michigan.gov or call the office directly at 1-(877) 560-8378 and select option 5.