

**Michigan ELPA Online
Spring 2012
Frequently Asked Questions**

Overall program and participation information

Levels III, IV, and V are eligible. How do test Levels correspond to grade level?

- Level III corresponds to grades 3 – 5
- Level IV corresponds to grades 6 – 8
- Level V corresponds to grades 9 – 12

These are the same as the paper/pencil assessments.

What domains (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking) will be tested ?

All four domains will be tested online. And, a student must take all four domains online.

What are the testing times of the domains?

Testing times will closely mirror those of paper/pencil.

Can a student work ahead if they finish a group of items or a domain before other students in the testing group?

No. Given the scripted nature of the ELPA, students should stay on the same schedule. This is the same as paper/pencil.

Will scripts be provided like paper/pencil tests?

Yes, Reading, Writing, and Speaking are scripted. The Listening domain has an abbreviated script and students will also receive direction through provided audio. Again, the structure of the online test closely matches the paper/pencil test.

Participation in Online assessment. How will we know that we are participating in online assessment? Will we receive confirmation?

You will officially be notified after pre-ID data has been received and analyzed in January.

Can a district have online testing participation by building or does the entire district need to participate?

Participation by building is permitted however it is recommended that the entire district participate in online assessment.

Our district technology resources are extremely limited. Can you help?

It is recommended that the ELPA Online Interest Survey be completed for review and assessment by Questar.

If an ELL-eligible student enters school during the test window, will he/she take the paper/pencil test?

Yes. Paper/Pencil materials will need to be ordered through the Additional Materials Orders (AMO) process for any students entering after pre-ID are submitted. Additionally, if a student has begun testing at one school through online testing and then transfers to another school, they will be required to take ALL domains of the Paper/Pencil test.

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Student eligibility. Within Levels III, IV, and V are there any students who are not eligible for online assessment?

Yes. It is recommended that students who may need any of the accommodations listed in the Accommodations Summary Table (www.michigan.gov/elpa), are enrolled in Special Ed. Services, or have a 504 Plan/IEP take the paper-pencil version of the ELPA. However, this decision can be made by the district on a case-by-case basis taking into consideration each student's assessment needs.

Student exemption. Within levels III, IV, and V, how are exemptions handled?

Any student receiving an exemption from at least one section of the ELPA must take the paper-pencil version of the ELPA.

Pre-ID Files

Are there any special considerations for PreID files for ELPA online assessment?

To ensure that students testing at Levels III, IV, and V are correctly identified for taking the ELPA online assessment or the regular ELPA paper-pencil test, districts must check their Pre-ID'd students for each participating building and grade level in the district. As a reminder, only Levels III, IV, and V are eligible to test online.

Computer Lab set-up and Group Testing

What is the recommended group size to administer the practice test and domain tests?

Planning and administration procedures should mirror those used for paper and pencil administrations. Please contact BAA for scheduling coordination assistance.

Can the practice test be administered in the same sitting as a domain test? Can multiple domains be administered together?

Planning and administration procedures should be mirror those used for paper and pencil administrations. Please contact BAA for scheduling coordination assistance

Computer lab security. Can the labs be used for any other purpose during the testing window?

Yes, to maintain test security, test content can only be accessed using the student login (test tickets required). As long as each testing session is completed and closed out of properly, the test content will remain secure and you will be able to use the lab and the computers for other activities when test sessions are not active.

What is the length and structure of the student passwords?

Eight (8) characters – alpha numeric, all lower case.

Practice Test

When should the Practice Test be conducted?

The purpose of the Practice Test is an interactive tutorial to familiarize students with online test navigation. We recommend that the Practice Test be reviewed by the District Test Coordinator, School Test Coordinator, District Information Technology Coordinator, School Technology Coordinator, and Test Administration staff when it is available. Students can also take the practice test when it is available; however, we recommend that the students take the Practice Test in close timing proximity to the first domain (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) so that they are ready to test. The Practice Test is approximately 15 – 30 minutes and can be administered multiple times.

Testing Results

Will online testing results be available online and sooner than Paper/Pencil results?

No, results for both modes of testing will be available at the same time after completion of all psychometric work and evaluation. Results will not be available for viewing online through the iTester system.

Caching Server

What is the requirement for cache server? Is it the same as iTester Client's minimum requirement?

Questar will be posting the hardware requirements for the caching server in the near future. The caching server software will need to be installed on a Windows PC running Windows XP with Service Pack 2 or higher or Windows file server. In either scenario, the caching server requires that the system be powered on and operational for the duration of the testing window.

Will Microsoft 2008 work for the caching server?

Yes.

Does a district need to provide any proxy server or cache server software to work with Questar's caching server application?

No, Questar's caching server will be standalone and will not require other software that district will need to provide.

Other Hardware, Software and Technical

The ISP blocks and prevents downloads, do we need to have the ISP unblock downloads for the iTester?

Contact Questar at ELPACustomerSupport@QuestarAI.com or call QAI Customer Service line at 1-877-560-8378 (select 5, ELPA). We can work with the school and the ISP to assist with downloads.

Workstation Readiness Test: Can you run several workstations at the same time?

The Workstation Readiness Test is an interactive process that verifies each workstation's ability to load the test effectively, and to ensure there are no issues with content display, screen interaction, and audio accessibility and quality. You could run a few workstations (3-4) at the same time as long as you are tending to the audio and other interactions.

What is the timing of the installation of the caching server?

The caching server software will need to be installed prior to the installation of iTester Client. Once caching server has been setup, the iTester Client install will ask about the use of the caching server. Workstation Readiness, Practice Test and student tests are all dependent on the above. Once configured, all will work with no additional setup activities.

Speaking test: In addition to the soundcard, is a microphone required?

No, we are not capturing voice from student, so no microphone is needed. The teacher will listen to the student's response and score it using the scoring rubric.

Speaking test: Does the teacher's computer need to match the student's computer?

As long as the computers meet the minimum requirements, you are fine. For example, the teacher's computer can be a MAC and the student's computer a PC.

iTester™ was installed okay but when students try to launch it, it fails.

If after the installation of iTester™, the installing administrator is able to launch iTester™ and take the practice tests but students are unable to launch iTester™, after logging in to the workstation, check to make sure the privileges used during the installation process are the same for the student logging in to iTester™.

During the installation of iTester™, "it just kept spinning" or I get stuck on a 'Connecting' screen.

This is a symptom for those installing iTester™ on Windows workstations with a proxy server.

Resolution issues:

iTester display resolution is set at the industry standard of 1024 x 768. If you are experiencing resolution issues, please contact your equipment vendor and/or Questar at ELPACustomerSupport@QuestarAI.com or call QAI Customer Service line at 1-877-560-8378 (select 5, ELPA).

How are student responses transmitted?

Student's testing results are sent to Questar's database during testing; they do not go to BAA. The school's testing lab will need to have connection to the caching server during testing. The caching server serves as the main communication vehicle from each school to Questar's host systems.

NOTE: To ensure that you are testing your internet, we suggest that Workstation Readiness be conducted at a peak usage time for the school.