

# Required Student Assessments and Training

## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to summarize expectations for academic student assessments in Iowa schools.

The table below identifies all assessment requirements for districts and nonpublic schools per federal law and Iowa code during the 2024-2025 school year.

## Federal Requirements

Required Assessment	Legal Citation	Grades Required	Testing Window	Comments
<p>State academic assessment:</p> <p>Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP)</p>	<p>Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)</p> <p>Iowa Code 256.7(21)(b)(2) and 279.60(3)</p> <p>Applies to public districts.</p>	<p>Per ESSA:* Reading and mathematics in grades 3-8, 10 and 11. Science in grades 5, 8 and 10.</p> <p>Per Iowa Code:* Reading and mathematics in grades 3-11. Science in grades 5, 8 and 10.</p>	<p>Per state statute, tests will be administered during the last quarter of the year.</p> <p>March 10-May 9, 2025.</p>	<p>All students in these grades are to take this assessment. The exception is students taking the state alternate assessment.</p>
<p>State alternate assessment:</p> <p>Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)</p>	<p>ESSA</p> <p>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</p>	<p>Reading and mathematics in grades 3-11.</p> <p>Science in grades 5, 8 and 10.</p>	<p>Fall: Phase 1 Sept. 9-Oct. 25, 2024.</p> <p>Fall: Phase 2 Oct. 28-Dec. 20, 2024.</p> <p>Spring: Phase 1 Feb. 3-March 21, 2025.</p> <p>Spring: Phase 2 March 24-May 16, 2025.</p>	<p>For students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that meet qualifications for participating in Iowa's alternate assessments.</p>
<p>Measure of annual progress and attainment of English:</p> <p>English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) Summative</p> <p>Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment (Alt ELPA) Summative</p>	<p>Iowa Administrative Code rule 281.60.2(1)</p> <p>ESSA sections 1111(b)(2)(G)(i) and (ii); 1112(e)(3)(a) and (b); and 3113(b)(2)</p>	<p>ELPA21 Summative: Assessment for all K-12 English learners (ELs).</p> <p>Alt ELPA Summative: Assessment for K-12 English learners with significant cognitive disabilities that takes the place of the general ELPA21 Summative requirement.</p>	<p>ELPA21 Summative: Feb. 3-March 28, 2025.</p> <p>Alt ELPA Summative: Feb. 3-March 28, 2025.</p>	<p>100% participation is expected for ELPA21 and Alt ELPA Summative assessments. This requirement includes testing ELs with disabilities.</p>

Required Assessment	Legal Citation	Grades Required	Testing Window	Comments
<p>Identification of English learners:</p> <p>ELPA21 Dynamic Screener</p> <p>Alt ELPA Screener (New)</p>	<p>Iowa Administrative Code rule 281.60.2(1)</p> <p>ESSA sections 1111(b)(2)(G)(i) and (ii); 1112(e)(3)(a) and (b); and 3113(b)(2)</p>	<p>ELPA21 Dynamic Screener: Administered to all K-12 students new to a district whose Home Language Survey indicates a prominent use of a language other than English in the home.</p> <p>Note: Transfer students previously screened in another Iowa district do not need to be re-screened.</p> <p>Alt ELPA Screener: Administered in place of the general screener for English learners with significant cognitive disabilities.</p>	<p>ELPA21 Dynamic Screener: Year-round, as needed.</p> <p>This screening is part of statewide entrance procedures for the identification of English learners.</p>	<p>Screening, identification, and parent notification of program placement must occur within the first 30 days of enrollment.</p> <p>Alt ELPA Screener requires advance approval. Contact the Iowa Department of Education Assessment Team for more information.</p>

\* The Iowa School Performance Profiles is an ESSA-required report. Thus, grade 9 is not included in the report, even though they are required by Iowa Code to be assessed.

## State Requirements

Required Assessment	Legal Citation	Grades Required	Testing Window	Comments
<p>Preschool assessment: Teaching Strategies GOLD®</p>	<p>Iowa Code 279.60(1)</p> <p>Child Development Coordinating Council Policy</p> <p>Applies to public districts community partners and Shared Visions Preschool grantees.</p>	<p>All PK or 4-year-old students in a Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program, Early Childhood Special Education Program, or Shared Visions Preschool Program.</p>	<p>Fall: Aug. 12-Nov. 18, 2024.</p> <p>Winter: Nov. 19, 2024-Feb. 24, 2025.</p> <p>Spring: Feb. 25-June 2, 2025.</p>	
<p>Early literacy universal screening and progress monitoring assessment</p>	<p>Iowa Code 279.68</p>	<p>All students K-3, continuing for those students persistently at risk.</p>	<p>Fall: Aug. 26–Sept. 27, 2024.</p> <p>Winter: Jan. 6–Feb. 7, 2025.</p> <p>Spring: April 21-May 30, 2025.</p>	<p>Districts may use any <a href="#">approved universal screening assessment</a> to meet this requirement.</p>

Required Assessment	Legal Citation	Grades Required	Testing Window	Comments
Early Literacy Alternate Assessment (EL AA)	Iowa Code 279.68 IDEA	K-3, continuing for those students persistently at risk.	Fall: Aug. 26-Sept. 27, 2024. Winter: Sept. 30, 2024-Feb. 7, 2025. Spring: Feb. 10-May 30, 2025.	For students with an IEP that meet qualifications for participating in Iowa's alternate assessments.
Diagnostic literacy assessment	Iowa Code 256D(1)(b)(1)  Applies to public districts.	All K-3 students.		The required early literacy universal screening measures under Iowa Code 279.68 may be used to meet this requirement.
End-of-unit assessment for students taking one-half unit of a U.S. government course.	Iowa Code 256.11(5)(b)  Applies to public districts and accredited nonpublic schools.	Applies to course, not grade level.	At the end of the course.	

## Training for Federal and State Mandated Assessments

### General Training Requirements for all Federal and State Assessments

Name of Training	Audience and Frequency	Location	Summary
State of Iowa Test Security Training	<b>Audience:</b> Test administrators/ proctors and test coordinators.  <b>Frequency:</b> Required at least once every 3 years.	<a href="#">AEA Learning Online</a>	This training module includes the importance of test security and ways to ensure test security before, during and after the administration of the assessment.
State of Iowa Test Security Training for Test Coordinators	<b>Audience:</b> Test coordinators.  <b>Frequency:</b> Required at least once every 3 years.	<a href="#">AEA Learning Online</a>	This training module supports district and school assessment coordinators to create an assessment policy and plan that follows the guidelines within the State of Iowa Test Security Manual.

## Federally Mandated Assessment Training Requirements

### ISASP Training

Name of Training	Audience and Frequency	Location	Summary
ISASP Test Coordinator Overview	<p><b>Audience:</b> ISASP test coordinators.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year.</p>	ISASP Portal: <a href="https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/">https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/</a>	The purpose of this training module is to support district and/or school coordinators in preparing for online and paper testing. The training includes an overview of the ISASP Portal and Pearson's assessment platforms (PearsonAccess <sup>next</sup> and TestNav8), as well as the next steps and tasks coordinators can complete.
ISASP Technology Readiness	<p><b>Audience:</b> ISASP technology staff.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Highly recommended every year.</p>	ISASP Portal: <a href="https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/">https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/</a>	The purpose of this training module is for technology staff to understand how to determine a school's readiness to test students online. Topics include: technology resources, components of online testing, TestNav8, ProctorCache, PearsonAccess <sup>next</sup> , infrastructure setup, infrastructure trial, next steps and support.
ISASP Test Security Training  <i>*Meets the test security training requirement*</i>	<p><b>Audience:</b> ISASP test coordinators and test administrators/proctors.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year.</p>	ISASP Portal: <a href="https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/">https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/</a>	The purpose of the required test security module is to provide all test administrators/proctors and test coordinators with information regarding test security, accessibility and the administration of the ISASP assessments.
ISASP Test Administration Training	<p><b>Audience:</b> ISASP test coordinators and test administrators/proctors.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year for test coordinators.  Recommended for test administrators/proctors.</p>	ISASP Portal: <a href="https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/">https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/</a>	The purpose of the required test administration module is to provide district and school coordinators with a refresher on the functionalities within PearsonAccess <sup>next</sup> . This training provides more information regarding how to set up testing and the critical tasks needed to prepare for the ISASP administration.
ISASP Reports Overview	<p><b>Audience:</b> ISASP test coordinators and teachers.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Recommended every year.</p>	ISASP Portal: <a href="https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/">https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/training-mods/</a>	The purpose of this training module is to provide an overview of the types of reports available, how to access reports in PearsonAccess <sup>next</sup> and the printing and ordering of reports.
Scribe Training	<p><b>Audience:</b> Scribes.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Highly recommended at least once every 3 years.</p>	<a href="#">AEA Learning Online</a>	This training module includes the importance of test security by everyone, and guidelines for scribes during federally mandated assessments.

## DLM Training

Name of Training	Audience and Frequency	Location	Summary
DLM Required Assessment Training	<p><b>Audience:</b> DLM test administrators/proctors.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year.</p>	Dynamic Learning Maps: <a href="https://educator.kiteaai.org/AA/RT/training.htm">https://educator.kiteaai.org/AA/RT/training.htm</a>	DLM has new and returning training for teachers who administered the DLM assessments the prior year.
DLM Optional Training	<p><b>Audience:</b> DLM test administrators/proctors.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> When appropriate.</p>	Dynamic Learning Maps: <a href="https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/professional-development">https://dynamiclearningmaps.org/professional-development</a>	DLM Professional Development Modules cover a range of topics including DLM Fundamentals, English language arts, math and science.

## ELPA21 Training

Name of Training	Audience and Frequency	Location	Summary
ELPA21 Summative Test Administration Training for New Test Administrators	<p><b>Audience:</b> All test administrators/proctors.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year.</p>	<p>Accessed through the ELPA21 training system. See the <a href="#">ELPA21 Summative Test Administration Manual</a> for more information.</p> <p>Available in December.</p>	<p>This is required training for all educators who will have responsibility for the administration of the ELPA21 Summative assessment to English learners.</p> <p>Test administrators new to ELPA21 must take the initial training module series. Test administrators who have completed the initial training in a previous year may take the shorter training option for experienced test administrators.</p>
ELPA21 Summative Test Administration Training for Experienced Test Administrators			
Alt ELPA Summative Test Training for Test Administrators	<p><b>Audience:</b> All test administrators/proctors.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year.</p>	<p>Accessed through the ELPA21 training system. See the <a href="#">Alt ELPA Summative Test Administration Manual</a> for more information.</p> <p>Available in December.</p>	<p>Alt ELPA Summative Training is required for all new test administrators prior to giving the assessment. Test administrators who have completed initial training in a previous year, may take the shorter training for experienced test administrators.</p> <p>Note: It requires two educators to administer the Alt ELPA Summative. Both are required to complete Alt ELPA Summative Training.</p>
Alt ELPA Refresher Training for Experienced Test Administrators			
ELPA21 Dynamic Screener Training	<p><b>Audience:</b> Test administrators.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year.</p>	<p>Accessed through the ELPA21 training system. See the <a href="#">ELPA21 Screener Test Administration Manual</a> for more information.</p> <p>Available in August.</p>	<p>This is required training for all educators who are responsible for the administration of the ELPA21 Dynamic Screener and the Alt ELPA Screener to potential English learners.</p> <p>All new test administrators take the ELPA21 Dynamic Screener Training. Test administrators who have completed the initial screener training in a previous year may take the shorter training option for experienced test administrators.</p>
ELPA21 Dynamic Screener Training for Experienced Test Administrators			

Name of Training	Audience and Frequency	Location	Summary
Alt ELPA Screener Training (New)	<p><b>Audience:</b> Test administrators.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year.</p>	<p>Accessed through the ELPA21 training system. See the Alt ELPA Screener Test Administration Manual (coming soon) for more information.</p> <p>Available in August.</p>	Alt ELPA Screener is a new assessment. All test administrators who will be administering the Alt ELPA Screener must take the training.

## State Mandated Assessment Training Requirements

Name of Training	Audience and Frequency	Location	Summary
Administering assessments for ELI requirements (Iowa Code 279.68)	<p><b>Audience:</b> All users of the assessments.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Prior to initial administration; and recommend updating at least annually.</p>	Specific to the assessments used by the district. For example, FastBridge assessments have training modules in the training and resources tab in the FastBridge system	Prior to first administration of assessments, any user must complete required training for the assessment as defined by the assessment vendor. It is strongly recommended that users frequently refresh their administration and scoring knowledge. Some assessments (such as the FastBridge suite of measures) have an assessment certification process.
Early Literacy Alternate Assessment (ELAA)	<p><b>Audience:</b> All users of the assessment.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Required every year.</p>	<a href="#">AEA Learning Online</a>	Prior to the administration of Iowa's Early Literacy Alternate Assessment, teachers are required to take training that reviews the assessment requirements and any changes from the previous administration.
Teaching Strategies GOLD®	<p><b>Audience:</b> All users of the assessment.</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Every 3 years.</p>	In the Develop Area of <a href="#">My Teaching Strategies GOLD website</a> .	<p>It is highly recommended that teaching staff complete the Interrater Reliability Certification (IRC) to support reliable use of GOLD®.</p> <p>Teaching assistants who have completed MyTeachingStrategies® GOLD® Introduction and Interrater Reliability Certification may complete preliminary leveling if the lead teacher and administrator agree.</p>