

An important measure of your student's progress in the English Learner (EL) program are the scores from the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21). The ELPA21 assesses English language skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

While families have the right under federal law to refuse standardized assessments, the Department of Education still requires districts to assess 100% of their qualifying students with the ELPA21, therefore VPS strongly encourages families to participate in annual testing. The results a student earns on the ELPA21 Assessment help determine whether their English skills and knowledge are sufficient to exit the EL program. English learners who do not test, continue to be eligible for EL services regardless of their skill level in English. For some students, not taking the assessment may mean remaining in the EL program longer than is needed.

If you would like to refuse to have your child participate in ELPA21, the district procedure is for families to meet with the school to discuss their decision and formally refuse by signing a Refusal Form. The form is kept in your student's cumulative file and a copy is shared with the Assessment department. Schools are not required to provide special instruction for students who refuse testing. They do provide supervision while their classmates take the state test.