



Kindergarten Screener Frequently Asked Questions

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ELPA21 has two differently-scored versions of the Kindergarten screener available: the “Kindergarten” screener and the “Future Kindergarten” screener. Availability of the Future Kindergarten version is generally limited to August/September and then again, the following spring for early screenings prior to the student entering school as a new Kindergarten student. Students who will be in Kindergarten in the fall but who are screened between April and July prior to the new school year are eligible for the Future Kindergarten screener.

The two tests versions are identical; only the scoring rules for Proficient have been adjusted in the Future Kindergarten version. State-level policy determines the dates of availability of the “Future Kindergarten” scored version.

1. Why does ELPA21 have two screener versions for Kindergarten?

Many Kindergarten students are screened before their Kindergarten school year starts. Some are screened as early as April – five months before school starts. Since students have not received any on-grade instruction at that point, ELPA21 created the “Future Kindergarten” version of the screener, which reduces the proficiency demands in all tested domains.

2. How does a student score “Proficient” on the two versions of the screener?

The Kindergarten screener scoring uses the same proficiency rules as the ELPA21 summative, which requires earning a “4” or higher in all domains as follows: Listening=4, Reading=4, Writing=4, and Speaking=4.

The Future Kindergarten screener scoring model uses reduced proficiency rules designating students who earn a level “3” or higher in all domains to be labeled proficient. Proficiency on the Future Kindergarten screener is as follows: Listening=3, Reading=3, Writing=3, and Speaking=3.

3. What version should be used in my state?

Please refer to the Important Dates section on your state’s portal for the Screener windows. Screeners started on or before the last day of the noted windows will be scored using the Future Kindergarten reduced proficiency demands. After the last day noted for the Future Kindergarten window, only the “Kindergarten” scoring version will be available in the list of tests. That screener scoring version uses the same proficiency rules as the summative. Next spring, the “Future Kindergarten” version will become available again, but only for students who will be in Kindergarten in the fall but who are screened between April and July prior to the new school year.