

English Language Arts Fall 2021 Writing Pilot

This document provides test coordinators with information on the English language arts (ELA) Writing Pilot that will take place in the fall of 2021.

Overview

The Ohio Department of Education, along with Cambium Assessment, Inc. will be conducting a voluntary ELA Writing Pilot November 1-December 17. The pilot's purpose is to determine valid and reliable test questions for future use on Ohio's State Tests.

The pilot will include English language arts classes in grades 4-8 and high school level. Students will take the test of the previous year's enrolled grade. For example, new seventh graders in fall 2021 will take the sixth-grade ELA Writing Pilot. Students who are new ninth graders will take the eighth-grade ELA Writing Pilot. Students in grades 10-12 will take the high school ELA pilot. This will be an online test experience only using Ohio's existing systems. No paper forms will be available. Each student test will consist of one passage set with associated reading items and one writing prompt. The time for administering the tests will be limited to up to one hour.

Participation

This writing pilot is open to all districts and schools and, although voluntary, we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to help develop the highest-quality writing items as well as provide schools and students an opportunity to be better prepared for future administrations.

Participating districts will be required to pre-identify students in [TIDE](#) in advance of the writing pilot. The enrolled grade will be used to determine test eligibility in the test delivery system. Districts should pre-identify students in their current enrolled grade, not last year's enrolled grade.

Technology

The tests will require the use of the secure browser and the Test Administrator Interface. The pilot will simulate a normal test administration. Test coordinators are encouraged to review the [Quick Guide for Setting Up Your Online Testing Technology](#), which summarizes the basic technology required to conduct online testing.

Districts will need to download the 2021-22 [secure browser](#) from the portal if they have not yet completed this task. Detailed installation instructions and additional information about preparing your network and devices for online testing are available in the platform specific [technology guides](#).

In addition, participating districts need to ensure that personnel have a Teacher (TE) or Test Administrator (TA) user account to access the TA Interface. Please review the [User Management Guidance Document](#) for information regarding user roles, password updates and managing accounts in TIDE.

Additional information will be provided prior to the test administration window.