

## **Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA) Spring 2020: Kindergarten and Grade 1 Writing Test Q&A**

### **1) What is changing with the Ohio English Language Proficiency Assessment (OELPA)?**

Beginning with the OELPA spring 2020 administration (the fifth operational year of the assessment), the Kindergarten and Grade 1 writing domain tests no longer will include the paper booklet writing supplement. The entire writing domain will be online and consist of all machine-scored items for both Kindergarten and Grade 1. There will be a slight increase in the number of items to maintain score reliability in this domain.

### **2) Why have the Kindergarten and Grade 1 writing supplements been removed?**

The paper-based writing supplement was created to assess student writing at grades K and 1 and has been included in OELPA's operational testing for four years. The supplement, however, was burdensome to schools and students. It added testing time and fatigue for students, and occasionally, schools only administered one component of the test. Without both the online and writing portions, a student writing test is incomplete. In other cases, the returned paper test was unscorable. The paper test items were not providing additional information about students' writing skills, nor were they making a meaningful contribution to students' scores.

ELPA21's board representatives and educators in our states shared their concerns about how to best assess the writing of these youngest English learners. The ELPA21 research team and its Technical Advisory Committee worked diligently to address these concerns and develop recommendations. These were presented to the ELPA21 Governing Board, on which every ELPA21 state has a voting seat. The ELPA21 Governing Board recommended and voted to remove the K-1 writing supplement for 2020 and beyond.

### **3) How will the removal impact students?**

This change means that 100% of the writing domain will be administered online rather than with an additional paper supplement for students in these two grade levels. The writing domain test includes a few additional items that compensate for the paper-based items that were removed.

### **4) How will the removal of the K-1 writing supplement impact test administrators?**

There are three benefits to this change: 1) lessening school burdens in receiving, securely storing, distributing and returning paper tests; 2) shortening overall testing time, thus freeing up student time for learning and computer lab time for other uses; and 3) reducing the number of invalidated writing tests caused by missing online or paper components.

### **5) Will the removal of K-1 writing affect student scores on the assessment?**

No. The updated writing domain results will provide the same data and information as in previous years.