**ELPA21 Update**
**January 2020**
DACs and ELPA21 Contacts:

The ELPA21 testing window is fast approaching. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- On **Jan. 9**, NDE will pull data into ADVISER for testing. All K-12 English Learners should be identified in your SIS by this date; students who arrive after this date will need to be entered into TIDE manually. Once the window opens, if new students were previously in another Nebraska district or ELPA21 state, check with the previous district to see if they have already taken the summative assessment this year.
- **Feb. 3-March 13** is the testing window. All K-12 English Learners must be tested on each of the four domains (listening, reading, speaking, writing) during this timeframe. Create schedules now if you haven't already done so for practice sessions as well as operational sessions.
- Temporary Student IDs are only used for the screener assessment. If your district uses temporary IDs, these records must be merged with SSID numbers prior to summative testing. For more information, refer to the TIDE user guide.
- All testing materials and resources can be accessed via the NE AIR portal.
- Student devices will need to have a secure browser installed. Refer to the Technology Requirements for Online Testing PPTX for more information. Secure browser installation information is found at the bottom of the Secure Browsers page.
- Large print, braille and paper/pencil materials that were ordered during the November order window will arrive on or before **Jan. 31**. An additional order window will be open January 22nd through March 6, 2020. Due to the elimination of the K-1 paper supplement, there are significantly fewer paper materials in use. Districts are asked to return materials to AIR as soon as you have finished testing students who use paper versions.
- If you haven't signed up for email alerts from AIR, the ELPA21 test vendor, please do so on the portal (upper right hand section)
- Ensure test administrators have been trained to administer the assessment. **Training modules and manuals** are available on the portal. https://ne.portal.airast.org/resources/summative-webinars-and-trainings-tesc/
- Ensure students have had the adequate opportunity to engage with the testing environment by utilizing the available **practice tests**. (See attached for more info).
- Translated test directions are available, if needed, on the portal for the following languages:
    - Spanish
    - Arabic
    - Chinese
    - Karen
    - Russian
    - Vietnamese
    - Marshallese

- Review the **ELPA21 Accessibility and Accommodations Manual** if you have questions about providing support for ELs with disabilities.
- **Domain exemptions**: In rare situations that preclude a student from engaging with a particular domain because of a disability, NDE can approve a domain exemption(s). For example, an exemption may be approved for a non-verbal EL who, because of the student's disability and the absence of appropriate accommodations, cannot take the Speaking portion of the assessment. All domain exemptions must be approved by the NDE Title III Director prior to the student beginning the operational assessment. The practice test, however, may be administered to determine whether an exemption is an appropriate option.
- See the attached **2018-19 Summative Guidance** for more in depth information, including Helpdesk hours and contact information. Contact them when you need technical assistance. For policy related questions, feel free to contact me.

Allyson