



**Information for Parents and Guardians
English Language Proficiency Assessment
Grade 9
January 15-26, 2018**

The English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) is an assessment of students' literacy skills based on the *Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum Outcomes (grade 8)* and the New Brunswick *Provincial Achievement Standards in Reading and Writing (End of Grade 8)*. Data obtained from the ELPA provides information about individual student achievement and offers a perspective on literacy achievement trends at the school, district and provincial levels.

Please Note:

- As part of the realignment of the New Brunswick Provincial Assessment Program (2015-2016 onward), students registered in grade 9 will be required to successfully complete only the Reading Comprehension assessment in order to meet the graduation requirement.
- Although the Writing component of the provincial assessment is no longer required, students are expected to meet provincial Writing Standards, monitored at the classroom level.

Who will participate in the ELPA?

The successful completion of the ELPA, with a minimum score of Appropriate Achievement (AA), is a high school graduation requirement for all grade 9 students, unless an exemption is obtained.

Who may be exempt?

An exemption may be permitted if justified by a student's Personalized Learning Plan (PLP). Approval from parent(s)/guardian(s), the principal, district, and EECD is required. A permanent or temporary exemption may be requested.

Are accommodations available?

Accommodations that do not jeopardize the integrity or content of the provincial assessment are permitted. Such accommodations give students an equal opportunity to demonstrate what they know and can do. Not all accommodations available in the classroom setting are appropriate for provincial assessments.

Requests for accommodations require the approval of the principal, district and EECD.

Further information on exemptions and accommodations can be found in the document *Protocols for Accommodations and Exemptions* on the GNB website.

When will students write the ELPA?

The ELPA/R will be written during exam period, January 15-26, 2018.

What will the ELPA be like?

The ELPA is designed to measure student performance in comparison to the *Provincial Reading Achievement Standards (end of grade 8)* and the *Atlantic Canada English Language Arts Curriculum Outcomes (grade 8)*. In order to ensure that it is fully aligned with our provincial standards, a review committee of New Brunswick educators selected the content of the assessment.

The format is as follows:

- Literary text (4 passages) and informational text (4 passages);
- Literal questions (20%), inferential/Interpretive questions (60%), and personal/critical/evaluative questions (20%);
- 50 selected-response (multiple-choice) items;
- Students will have 90 minutes to complete the component with up to 90 extra minutes, if needed.

The use of dictionaries, thesauri and translation devices are **not** permitted for the ELPA.

How will the results be reported?

The ELPA results will be reported as Strong Achievement (SA), ~~Appropriate Achievement (AA), or Below~~ Appropriate Achievement (BAA) and by percentage of questions correct for each genre (literary and informational) and question type (literal, inferential/interpretive, and personal/critical/evaluative).

Individual reports of these results will be issued.

Where can I find more information?

Information about the ELPA can be found on the GNB website under Assessment and Evaluation, (High School).

If you have questions, please contact the Assessment, Innovation and Technologies Branch, Anglophone Sector, at (506) 453-2744.