



Kindergarten Screener Versions and “Grade 00”

(June 19, 2020)

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 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 will be enrolled as “Grade 00” so that they are not mixed in with the students who are already enrolled in Kindergarten.

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 – 5 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 the domains of Reading and Writing.

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” in all domains as follows: Listening=4, Reading=4, Writing=4, and Speaking=4.

The Future Kindergarten screener scoring uses reduced proficiency rules for Reading and Writing. So, proficiency on the Future Kindergarten screener is: Listening=4, Reading=3, Writing=3, and Speaking=4.

3. What version should be used in my state?

Please refer to the Important Dates 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 reduced proficiency demands in Reading and Writing. 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 enrolled in Grade 00.

4. What is “Grade 00?”

Grade 00 was created solely to separate a school year’s actual Kindergarten students (who are enrolled in Grade KG) from the pre-registering students who will be screened during spring and into the summer prior to their Kindergarten year. When CAI rolls the new school year over in the computer system, which generally happens around August 1st, Grade 00 will no longer be needed. Essentially, it was created to help states keep track of the pre-registered students who are screened in the months prior to the start of the new school year.

5. Can I use Grade 00 in other months?

No. Only pre-registering students being administered the Kindergarten screener (Kindergarten or Future Kindergarten versions) prior to the new year should be listed in Grade 00. During the school year prior to any pre-registration events, there should be no students enrolled as Grade 00.

6. Why not just call this grade “Pre-K”?

ELPA21 is not designed to assess students prior to the Kindergarten year. Using the term Pre-K may cause some to think that the testing system is for students in pre-school, which it is not. Grade 00 helps to clarify that a temporary record for the student is being created for preregistering students only. Those test records will roll up and read “KG” when the system is updated on August 1st each year.