



E-PAL Eligibility Memo – September 2009

What is E-PAL?

The Early Performance Assessment in Language Arts (E-PAL) is a continuation of the ECLAS-2 kit for grades 2 and 3. It provides information about student writing in response to literature. E-PAL is an optional assessment administered only in the winter only (January 11–25). E-PAL is a complementary assessment that can be used in conjunction with ECLAS-2 or any K–2 benchmarking assessment.

E-PAL 2 is an untimed assessment of writing in response to literature for grade 2 students. It is administered over a two-day period (approximately 45 minutes on day 1 and one hour on day 2). The classroom teacher administers and scores this assessment.

On the first day, students listen to the teacher read a passage; on the second day, students read a passage. On each day, the students answer two questions: a graphic organizer question and an extended-response question. E-PAL 2 responses are used to evaluate students' understanding of the stories or articles they heard or read and how well they express their understanding in writing.

E-PAL 3 is an untimed assessment of writing in response to literature for grade 3 students. It is administered over a two-day period (approximately one hour each day). On day 1, students listen to a passage, and on day 2, they read a passage. On each day, students answer three questions: one graphic organizer question and two open-ended response questions. E-PAL 3 responses are used to evaluate students' understanding of the stories or articles they heard or read and how well they express their understanding in writing.

When is E-PAL administered?

The assessment will be administered to students in grades 2 and 3 from **January 11-25**.

Is E-PAL required?

E-PAL is an **optional** assessment that may be administered in all elementary schools regardless of their overall Periodic Assessment selection.

E-PAL may be administered to some third graders in place of a second Acuity ITA. E-PAL will be administered from January 11–25. Educators in schools administering E-PAL will be required to score student response materials and record the information on ECLAS-2/E-PAL Answer Documents that will be uploaded into ARIS. To administer E-PAL in place of an ITA for your entire third-grade population, please answer "Yes" to question 4 in the ordering



survey (http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BuzR5NiUXYEwjFzfxeiA4Q_3d_3d). Schools that do not wish to use E-PAL in place of an ITA may continue to use E-PAL as a complement to their selected assessment program.

How do I order E-PAL?

Schools that would like to administer E-PAL must visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=BuzR5NiUXYEwjFzfxeiA4Q_3d_3d to place their orders by **October 14**. Schools will be asked to indicate the number of assessment booklets needed in each grade level. Please refer to the eligibility requirements below for further guidance.

Who is eligible?

All grade 3 students can be assessed with E-PAL 3.

Eligibility for grade 2 is based on the student’s mastery of her or his literacy skills. Students who have mastered grade level expectations in reading accuracy and comprehension according to the school’s chosen K-2 literacy assessments can take the E-PAL assessment. Other students may also be offered the assessment at the teacher’s discretion.

Please refer to the guidelines for your Periodic Assessment choice.

Assessment System	Lowest level of proficiency for grade 2*
ECLAS-2	Mastery of Level 5
Fountas and Pinnell	Level H
DRA-2	Level 16
Teacher’s College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP)	Level F
DYO	TBD by school based on grade 2 standards

*Please note these levels are taken from user guides developed by each assessment system.

Any student who has mastered a level higher than the level stated above is eligible for E-PAL. When assessing a student’s level, the teacher should consider both reading accuracy and comprehension of the text. The student is expected to be able to read the specific level independently. Students at lower levels may also be offered E-PAL if the teacher feels the information obtained through the assessments would be helpful.

If you have any questions about E-PAL administration guidelines please contact Periodic Assessment at 212-374-5162 or periodicassessment@schools.nyc.gov.