

2012 Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA) Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

1. What is the CELLA?

The Comprehensive English Language Learning Assessment (CELLA) is a four-skill language proficiency assessment that is designed to provide the following:

- i. Evidence of program accountability in accordance with Title III of [No Child Left Behind \(NCLB\)](#), which requires schools and districts to meet state accountability objectives for increasing the English language proficiency of English Language Learners (ELLs).
- ii. Data for charting student progress over time and for charting the progress of newly-arrived ELLs.
- iii. Information about the language proficiency levels of individual students that may be helpful in making decisions to exit a student from the [English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\) program](#).
- iv. Diagnostically useful information about individual student's strengths and weaknesses in English (with as much specificity as possible)

The test items included in this assessment are based on the CELLA proficiency benchmarks, which are aligned to Florida's English language proficiency standards.

2. Who takes the CELLA?

All students enrolled in the district (grades K-12) and classified ELL, with a code of "LY" or "LP" must be administered the CELLA. In addition, all students who are coded "LF" on or after September 1 of the current school year must be administered the CELLA.

3. When is the CELLA administered?

The Spring 2012 CELLA will be administered during March 5, 2012 – April 6, 2012.

4. What subject areas are measured by the CELLA?

The CELLA is a four-skill language proficiency assessment (Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking).

5. How much time does it take to administer the CELLA to a student?

Students take the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections as a group. For the Speaking section, students have a one-on-one interview with a teacher. Kindergarten students are administered all four sections individually. Please note the listed times are *approximate* to testing only and do not include completion of student demographic information.

- Kindergarten – Grade 1: **1 hour**
- Grade 2: **1 hour and 35 minutes**
- Grades 3 – 12: **2 hours and 35 minutes**

6. Who wrote the questions for the CELLA?

The CELLA was designed and developed through a process overseen by [Accountability Works](#) that involved educators and administrators from five states, including: Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Tennessee. The assessment was developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), under contract to Accountability Works. Development of the CELLA was supported through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

7. Do Foreign Exchange Students have to take the CELLA?

No, since Foreign Exchange students should be proficient in the English language.

8. Do students with disabilities receive specific accommodations for the CELLA?

Yes. For more information, please review the [CELLA Test Accommodations](#) in Appendix A of the Test Administration Manual.

CELLA Materials

9. Where can I find the Train-the-Trainer Online Training Presentation?

The 2012 CELLA Train-the-Trainer Presentation can be found on [ServicePoint](#) in the blue box for *Key Dates and Notifications*. A PowerPoint version of the presentation is available on the FDOE-CELLA website. Login is not required.

10. How can I access the pallet maps and CELLA Administration Record/ Security Checklist for the district or school?

Visit Questar's [ServicePoint](#) website. They are located in the blue box for *Key Dates and Notifications*. Login is not required.

11. Are seating charts mandatory?

Discuss your district's assessment procedures with the CELLA Coordinator to determine whether seating charts are required by your district.

12. Did Questar receive Survey 2 and Survey 7 enrollment information for PreID Labels?

No, only Survey 7 enrollment data was provided to generate PreID Labels for the 2012 Spring CELLA administration.

13. Is the PreID Roster accessible to School Test Coordinators?

A hard copy of the PreID Roster is provided in the school's testing materials shipment. The District Coordinator has access to the electronic version on the secure portion of [ServicePoint](#).

14. What if the PreID label or roster has the wrong information (i.e. gender)?

Preidentification information is provided by your districts. If the student's last name, ID number, district number, school number, grade level, and ELL status are correct, please use the student label. Please contact your MIS department to correct the student's demographic information to ensure inaccurate information is not submitted to the FDOE during the PreID process ([Survey 7](#)).

15. What should I do if a Level A student is enrolled in the *Developmentally Delayed* program, and did not receive a PreID Label? How do I complete the student demographic pages?

Since this program is not reflected on the demographic pages, do not complete Box #17 – Primary Exceptionality. Please contact the [Bureau of Student Achievement through Language Acquisition](#) at (850) 245-0417 to provide the student's information.

16. Is it required to assign a test book to a student for grades 3 -12?

No, it is only *recommended* that Test Administrator assign the Level B, C, or D test book to a student.

17. If a student receives an accommodated format of the CELLA (i.e. large-print/Braille), who must transcribe the answers to the regular-print answer sheet or test book?

The Test Administrator must transcribe/record students' exact responses from the large-print test books and/or Braille versions to the appropriate regular-print Level A Test Book or Level B, C, or D Answer sheet.

18. When should schools return materials to the district office?

Please contact your District CELLA Coordinator to determine the actual date to return materials. All secure materials **must** be returned to Questar no later than, April 13, 2012.

19. Can I destroy materials in the District Coordinator Only box after test administration?

If asked by the District Coordinator, you may destroy the materials with the exception of the original CELLA Administration Record/ Security Checklist, 2012 CELLA Administration and Security Agreement, and the 2012 CELLA Security Logs- these documents can ONLY be destroyed in a secure manner after scores for the 2012 CELLA Administration are reported.

20. How are levels combined on the Listening CDs?

There are two levels per CD: A1 & B1; C1 & D1. If the test administrator is using the recorded delivery, they are permitted to pause the CD to provide students optimal time to complete answers. Repeating an item is **prohibited**.

CELLA Administration

21. May students substitute alternative assessment scores for passing scores on the CELLA?

There is no substitute assessment for the CELLA.

22. Can a paraprofessional be a Test Administrator for the CELLA?

For the Spring 2012 CELLA administration, districts may continue to utilize test administrators that include the following:

- State-level certified educators
- District-level certified educators
- School personnel (including temporary certifications for new teachers and certified substitute teachers)
- Paraprofessionals articulate in English

23. What is an appropriate Probing Question?

An appropriate probing question during the Speaking portion of the CELLA will not introduce a new topic or vocabulary to the student. The Test Administrator may ask, "Can you tell me what happens next?" or "What's going on in this picture?"

24. What Extension items are for Grade 2 student ONLY?

Extension items that are for Grade 2 students only are in the Reading (#16-25) and Writing (#8-16) sections. All K-2 students must take all items within the Listening and Speaking sections.

25. A student moved/transferred during testing and did not finish all four sections. Should we DNS the sections that were not completed?

Do not DNS any sections that were not completed by the student. If any of the following describes the student's situation, please proceed as directed on page 28 of the [Test Administration Manual](#) for *Defective Materials*.

- a. The student transferred to another school *within* the district.
- b. The student transferred *outside* the district, but the District Coordinator is able to locate the student, and collaborate with the receiving District.

In order for a student to receive an Individual Student Report, the student must complete all four sections of the CELLA on the same answer sheet. The receiving school should be provided with the answer document previously completed to permit the student to transfer their answers under the supervision of the Test Administrator. The receiving school must complete their district number and school code, as appropriate on CELLA test documents.

26. During group administration, a student becomes disruptive and talkative. What should the Test Administrator do?

Any student that becomes disruptive and talkative should be promptly removed from the testing room. If a student is disruptive during testing, grid only the DNS bubble for that particular section.

- Situations involving disruptive behavior should be investigated and discussed with the School Coordinator and the site administrator before a final invalidation decision is made.
 - If the decision is to not invalidate, then the student should be assessed all four sections of the CELLA individually.

27. What is the appropriate number of students during group administration?

The number of students is dependent on the grade level, location where the test is being administered, and the number of administrators monitoring the students.

CELLA Reports

28. Who scores the CELLA? How are the CELLA scorers trained?

The Speaking section is locally scored by Test Administrators, which complete either FDOE-QAI developed training or district-level developed training. The Writing section is scored by a team at Questar Assessment, Inc. The Reading and Listening sections are scanned and scored by Questar.

29. Which CELLA scores are available on the Internet to the public?

Currently, the [Spring 2011 State Summary](#) is provided on the FDOE-CELLA website.

30. How and when are CELLA results returned to students?

Two copies of the Individual Student Report (ISR) are provided to the schools in May of the current school year. Schools should distribute one ISR to the student and/or parent, while maintaining the second ISR in the student's cumulative folder.

31. How do I obtain a copy of my child's CELLA scores?

Please contact your child's school for the Individual Student Report.

32. At what proficiency level(s) must students pass the CELLA?

The proficiency levels vary for Listening/Speaking; Reading; Writing. Additional information regarding the proficiency levels is provided on the [CELLA Interpretive Guide](#).

33. When will the School Test Coordinators receive login information to access School Reports on ServicePoint?

School Test Coordinators will receive login information within the 2012 CELLA Reports shipment. District Coordinators will receive a list of all usernames and passwords for each school on ServicePoint at the same time.

34. Do students receive remediation based on their CELLA scores?

Contact your child's school for specific services provided by the English for Speakers of Other Languages program.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Questar's Customer Service department at (877) 852 – 3552 or CELLA@QuestarAI.com.