Do you have a child who will be writing or re-writing the English Language Proficiency Assessment or ELPA this year? This message is from the PSSC to provide you with more information about this assessment.

Basically, the ELPA is a test that measures students’ level of reading and writing proficiency in English. All grade 9 students write this test.  If they are not successful in grade 9, then in grade 10 they have a year of intensive intervention and will need to take Literacy 110 in first semester of grade 11. They are also given two more opportunities to rewrite if necessary, the first in grade 11 and the second in grade 12. Passing this assessment is a high school graduation requirement.

Some other points of interest about this assessment:

Students on Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) may be exempt if it is supported by the district and the province. If you aren’t sure, check with your child’s teacher.

* Students needs can be accommodated by providing them with extra time or a different location.
* Students are not allowed to ask questions, use a dictionary or a thesaurus during the test.
* If assistive technology is required due to your child’s needs, it is provided, however, the spelling and grammar checks are disabled.
* The tests are marked by teachers from all over NB who follow an established rubric in order to keep the marking consistent.
* The province prints individual reports for each student. When results are released, you will be able to see averages by district as well as overall provincial results on district websites.
* If your child does not pass this assessment, you can appeal, however, parents must initiate the appeal process and there is a fee required. It’s important to keep in mind that Hampton High has never had a situation where a student has not been allowed to graduate because of the ELPA.
* In 2014, 80.4% of students province wide met or exceeded the reading requirements.
* In 2014, 88.2% of students province wide met or exceeded the writing requirements.
* If you have concerns about this assessment, please contact Mrs. Olivia Donovan, SPR of English

There is nothing specific you can do to help prepare your child for this assessment. Making sure they have a good supper the night before, a good breakfast, and a good night’s sleep is probably the best preparation – along with some encouraging words of course!

For more detailed information, click on the link below or copy it into your web browser.

<http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/asd-s/Documents/2013-14%20ASD-S%20Assessment%20Results%20-%20Presentation.pdf>