

## English Language Arts Writing Pilot

This document provides test coordinators with information on the English language arts (ELA) Writing Pilot that will take place in the fall of 2018.

### Overview

The Ohio Department of Education, along with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) will be conducting a voluntary ELA Writing Pilot October 8-19. The pilot's purpose is to ensure that writing questions continue to be reliable measures of student ability following the adoption of Ohio's revised ELA standards.

The pilot will include English language arts classes in grades 6-9, and ELA I and II at the high school level. Students will take the test of the previous year's enrolled grade. For example, new seventh graders in fall 2018 will take the sixth-grade ELA Writing Pilot. Students in grades 10-12 will take the high school ELA pilot. This will be an online test experience only using Ohio's existing systems. No paper forms will be available. Each student test will consist of one passage set with associated reading items and one writing prompt. The time for administering the tests will be limited to up to 1 hour.

### How do I participate?

This pilot program is open to all districts and schools and, although voluntary, we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to help ensure reliability of writing items as well as provide schools and students an opportunity to be better prepared for future administrations.

Participating districts will be required to pre-identify students in [TIDE](#) in advance of the writing pilot. The enrolled grade will be used to determine test eligibility in the test delivery system. Districts should pre-identify students in their current enrolled grade, not last year's enrolled grade.

### Technology

The tests will require the use of the secure browser (or AIR SecureTest app) and the Test Administrator Interface. The pilot will simulate a normal test administration. Test coordinators are encouraged to review the [Online System Requirements](#) document, which summarizes the basic technology required to conduct online testing.

Districts will need to download the 2018-2019 [secure browser](#) from the portal, if they have not yet completed this task. Detailed installation instructions are available in the [Secure Browsers Installation Manual](#). Additional information about preparing your network and devices for online testing is available in the [Technical Specifications Manual](#).

In addition, participating districts need to ensure that your personnel has a Teacher (TE) or Test Administrator (TA) user account to access the TA Interface. Please review the [User Management Guidance Document](#) for information regarding user roles, password updates and managing accounts in TIDE.

Additional information will go out to the field over the next month. The department will provide an online testing checklist, script, and other support documentation in advance of the pilot.