Early Learning Scale (ELS) Tip Sheet

Overall Tips:

The ELS assessment process is presented in a cyclical fashion because it is an iterative process in which teachers move flexibly from step to step and return to previous steps at any time based on the data collected or the events that occur with the student or in the classroom. The steps include Observing and Investigating, Documenting and Reflecting, Analyzing and Evaluating, Hypothesizing and Planning and Instruction (which is informed by the data collected). The ELS Guidebooks give specific information about the research base, standards addressed, continuum descriptions for scoring and ideas for teaching and documenting for each domain. Teachers should always have access to the ELS Guidebooks and Instrument, and these tools should be used as their first source of information on the ELS. In addition, the online ELS system has a library of training videos for teachers to refer to when navigating the website.

Scoring Tips:

Three times a year the ELS is used to summarize a child's learning and development at that particular point in time. A score of 1-5 is provided for each of the items that defines the child's placement on the trajectory (a blank score is given if a child does not yet demonstrate the skills necessary to be placed on the trajectory). In order to score an item, the evidence must vary and it must apply to all the strands in the item. It is the quality of the anecdotes that enable a teacher to score, not necessarily the quantity. Teachers should interact with the children by probing to gain further insight into what they know or understand. Once a teacher is ready to "finalize" the scores they have already entered, they can press the "Submit Scores for Period" button.

Tips for Reports:

The online ELS system provides a variety of useful reports at the child, classroom and program levels. These reports include:

- ELS Student Accomplishments Summary – for teacher use
- Child Accomplishments Summary – this can be shared with families
- Student Year Summary – this shows the item scores for a given student for the selected year
- ELS Class Summary – this shows data/scores for all students in a class, with Items and Strands listed
- Teacher Summary Report – this gives administrators an overview of what percentage of students in a given class have had their scores submitted for that score period.

ELS Class Summary Report Tips

In Pennsylvania, when a teacher scores students in the ELS system, they will want to save their data by pressing the "Submit Scores for Period" button, as this will indicate their scores are ready for upload to the OCDEL system. Please follow the steps listed below:

- Complete ELS Scoring for a student
- Click on "Submit Cores for Period" (please note if there are any sections of the student assessment that do not have scores, the system will notify the teacher that they are missing some sections – there is a button that allows the teacher to return to the scoring area and complete those sections if needed)
- Once scoring is completed and submitted, a teacher can access the "Reports" section of the online ELS system, where the ELS Class Summary Report can be viewed. This report gives teachers an overview of their class, listing each student and their corresponding scores. A green dot appears next to the names of those students whose scores have been completed and submitted. Students without a green dot indicate for the teacher that their scores still need to be entered and submitted for the score period.

ELS Teacher Summary Report Tips

To view the ELS Teacher Summary Report, an administrator can go to the "Reports" section of the online ELS (admin log in) and select "Teacher Summary Report" from the menu. This report will show, by teacher and session (am/pm) the percentage of students in a given class that have had their scores submitted for that score period. At a glance, the administrator can see the number of students in the class and how many of those students have had scores submitted.

Both of these reports allow the end user several click through options to drill down into individual teacher and student data. For example, the ELS Class Summary also shows the average scores for all students in a class on those Items/Strands once the entire class has been submitted. The report also shows those scores that have been saved, but not yet submitted.