

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q1: What is the Adult Literacy XPRIZE?**

A1: More than 36 million U.S. adults lack basic English literacy, limiting not only their personal educational and career opportunities but also those of their children and future generations. The Barbara Bush Foundation Adult Literacy XPRIZE presented by Dollar General Literacy Foundation (ALXP) has catalyzed dozens of companies from around the world to create mobile learning applications that will help low-literacy adults—both native speakers of English and native speakers of Spanish—attain basic English literacy skills in just one year.

### **Q2: What is the ALXP Field Test?**

A2: To measure the effectiveness of as many as fifteen of the learning solutions developed by companies, the XPRIZE Foundation is conducting a large-scale trial in three major US metropolitan areas, Los Angeles, Dallas, and Philadelphia. In this Field Test, low-literacy adults—those who test at or below the equivalent of a 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade reading level on a generally accepted standardized literacy assessment at the start of the trial—will be given one of the available mobile learning applications to use on their own. After one year, a portion of these adult learners will be invited to take the same standardized assessment again to measure their learning gains.

### **Q3: How can we get involved?**

A3: There are three ways your school or organization can get involved as a Champion: 1) Amplify (aka: Outreach) –reaching out to your local community of supporters, tutors, and learners to inform them about the ALXP Field Test. 2) Quantum (aka: Recruitment) – actively recruiting volunteers and adult learners to participate in the ALXP Field Test. 3) Assets (aka: Facility/Equipment) – offer a facility and/or equipment such as laptop or desktop computers to administer the assessments. All Champions will be recognized on our website and will have access to our social media ecosystem made up of over 1.1 million followers.

If you are interested in getting involved, please complete a 5-minute questionnaire by [clicking here](#)  
[>>](#)

### **Q4: In which cities is the ALXP Field Test taking place?**

A4: The ALXP Field Test is mobilizing in three major US metropolitan areas: Los Angeles, Dallas, and Philadelphia. In each metropolitan area, field operations efforts are being led by one of our official partners. In Los Angeles, the official partner is the [Los Angeles Unified School District's](#) Division of

Adult and Career Education (LAUSD). The ALXP Field Test official partner in Dallas is the [Dallas County Community College District](#) Work Ready U Program (DCCCD). In Philadelphia, we are working with the [City of Philadelphia's Office of Adult Education](#) (OAE).

**Q5: Is the goal of the Adult Literacy XPRIZE to replace adult education programs with apps?**

A5: No. Our vision for ALXP is to bring the opportunity for high-quality education to every low-literacy adult, first in the US and then the world. Today, existing programs are able to address the needs of less than 5% of the adult learner population in the United States. The apps developed as part of the Adult Literacy XPRIZE will ultimately supplement what existing programs do, increasing capacity and making those programs more relevant. We fully expect that after the conclusion of the Adult Literacy XPRIZE, the tools developed by teams will be adopted by many programs in a blended learning model. Such a blended learning model will ultimately increase capacity and reduce attrition. Our conversations with educators and administrators have so far shown an overwhelming openness to participating in the Field Test and robust enthusiasm for its results. The key in every case is to show these organizations how these tools can benefit the learners without harming the work the agency is already doing.

**Q6: What is the timeline of the ALXP Field Test?**

A6: The ALXP Field Test begins in May 2017. From May through August 2017, learners will be recruited to take a standardized literacy assessment ("pre-test"). Beginning in May 2018, a subset of these original participants will be invited back to take the same standardized literacy assessment ("post-test"). The ALXP Field Test will end in August 2018.

**Q7: Who is eligible to participate in the Field Test?**

A7: Eligible participants for the ALXP Field Test are adults over the age of 18 who live in the greater Los Angeles, Dallas, and Philadelphia metropolitan areas and read English at or below the equivalent of a third-grade reading level. These learners may be native speakers of either English or Spanish and must have access to an Android smartphone or tablet that they use regularly. Participants can but are not required to be concurrently enrolled in adult education classes.

**Q8: Is there an incentive for participating?**

A8: Yes, there are incentives to participate for learners, volunteers, and community organizations. Learners who complete the first standardized assessment (the "pre-test") will receive a \$25 cash gift card and a free mobile learning app. Participants who are invited to take the second standardized assessment one year later (the "post-test") will receive a new smartphone or equivalent incentive.

Volunteers who complete at least five hours of service will also receive gift cards as a perk. Finally, in each of the three participating cities, local contests are being held to reward the organization with the highest learner turn-out. The winning organization in each city will receive a set of Chromebooks (or similar) for use in their classrooms.

**Q9: Are students in my class obligated to participate?**

A9: No. Participation in the ALXP Field Test is completely voluntary.

**Q10: Not all my students have Android phones. Can they still participate?**

A10: No. To participate, learners must have regular access to an Android smartphone, phablet, or tablet running Android OS 4.4.4 or above. The apps provided in the ALXP Field Test do not run on other mobile operating systems. For full list of supported devices, [click here >>](#)

**Q11: How are you measuring adult low-literacy?**

A11: All learners participating in the ALXP Field Test will take a generally accepted standardized adult literacy assessment at the start of the trial, such as CASAS, TABE, BEST or other recognized instrument.

**Q12: How will you measure the increase in the literacy level of the low-literate adults?**

A12: Learning gains will be measured by comparing participants' pre-test and post-test scores as measured by a standardized literacy assessment given one year apart.

**Q13: How are students registered and tested?**

A13: Learner registration for the ALXP Field Test is a simple four-step process: 1) Learners download an XPRIZE "Framework app" on their own phones or tablets and consent to participate in the Field Test. 2) Within this Framework app, participants complete a screener, a 5-minute quiz that determines eligibility. 3) If the learner qualifies through the screener (which will be indicated on their device), s/he is then directed to complete the standardized literacy assessment, which will be administered by a proctor on-site. 4) Once the student has completed the standardized assessment, s/he will approach an on-site volunteer who will confirm test completion, help the learner download a literacy app, and distribute the \$25 cash card to the learner.

**Q14: How long does the registration process take?**

A14: The entire intake process (welcome, instructions, app download, and screener) takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes. The administration of the standardized literacy assessment takes approximately 20 to 40 minutes. The sign-out process takes an additional 5 minutes. In total, the registration and testing process should take 35 to 60 minutes per learner. Multiple learners can go through the registration process simultaneously.

**Q15: What happens with students who do not qualify for the Field Test?**

A15: Upon taking the screener (see Step 1 in A13 above), learners may be determined not to qualify for the Field Test. These learners will not take the standardized assessment and will not receive the \$25 gift card. However, they will still be able to download a FREE literacy app and be given information about resources for nearby adult education programs. From time to time, these learners may also receive relevant announcements on new programs.

**Q16: Who will help the students if they have problems with these apps?**

A16: As with any app in the Google Play store, technical support will be provided by the app developer as needed.

**Q17: Can learners be enrolled in a class while using these apps?**

A17: Yes. Learners are not prohibited from remaining or newly enrolling in adult education programs during the usage of these literacy apps.

**Q18: Do my students win anything if they have the best scores?**

A18: No. Learners' receive an \$25 gift card for taking the pre-test and downloading one of the fifteen literacy apps. A subset of learners will be invited to take a post-test and will receive an incentive for their participation as well. Learners will not receive additional incentives for participating or for gains made during the Field Test.

**Q19: What if a student stops using an app in the middle of the Field Test?**

A19: Participation in the ALXP Field Test is completely voluntary. Learners may stop using the literacy apps at any time with no penalty.

**Q20: Can students select which apps they use?**

A20: No. Learners will have one of up to fifteen apps randomly assigned to them.

**Q21: Can I review the apps before recommending that my students participate?**

A21: Anyone may review the companies and applications selected for the ALXP Field Test beginning in May 2017. However, because apps will be randomly assigned to participants, you will not be able to recommend a particular app to your learners for the purposes of the Field Test. However, as with any publicly available learning tool, you may recommend any of the apps for your students' personal use.

**Q22: What are the system requirements to host the Field Test at my facility?**

A22: The minimum network speed to download the apps in all locations must be greater than 2Mbps to avoid the download from timing out. To test the broadband performance of your facility to accommodate the minimum internet speed requirement, [click here >>](#). It is recommended that tests are run from several locations where test subjects will be installing the app.

**Q23: Why is my organization participating in this project?**

A23: Your organization is taking a leadership role in advancing adult literacy in your community and implementing learning tools to empower the nearly 1 in 6 low-literacy adults in the US with the skills they need to improve their lives and realize their dreams.

**Q24: Who is sponsoring the ALXP Field Test?**

A24: The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation have provided the funding for the Adult Literacy XPRIZE Field Test.

**Q25: Whom should I contact with questions?**

A25: Email Mika Kim, Partnerships Relations Specialist for ALXP, at [info.adultliteracy@xprize.org](mailto:info.adultliteracy@xprize.org)