



**NYSESLAT Parent  
Information Brochure**

Welcome! The mission of the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) is to ensure that all New York State (NYS) students, including English Language Learners (ELLs)/Multilingual Learners (MLLs), attain the highest level of academic success and language proficiency. We strive to ensure that all students' individual educational paths and socio-emotional needs are met in multiple languages leading them to college and career readiness. Each year your child is given a language proficiency assessment, the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT).

### **INTRODUCTION**

The NYSESLAT is given to all students who are identified as ELL/MLL by the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL). The purpose of the NYSESLAT is to annually assess the English language proficiency level of ELLs/MLLs enrolled in Grades K–12 in New York State schools. The test gives the state, schools, parents, and teachers important information about the English language development of ELLs/MLLs.

### **WHEN IS THE NYSESLAT GIVEN?**

The NYSESLAT is usually administered in the spring during April and May.

### **WHAT KINDS OF QUESTIONS WILL STUDENTS BE ASKED?**

The NYSESLAT includes multiple choice, short written response questions, long written response questions, and oral response questions in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English. Your child must take all parts of the test. The questions on the NYSESLAT reflect the kinds of activities and tasks that your child would experience in the classroom.

### **WHO ADMINISTERS THE NYSESLAT?**

The NYSESLAT is administered by qualified New York State educators.

### **HOW CAN I GET A COPY OF MY CHILD'S NYSESLAT SCORES?**

The school will provide a NYSESLAT score report that will give you specific information about your child's English language development progress.

## WHAT ARE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVELS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR AND ONWARD?

English language proficiency has shifted from four to five proficiency levels to allow for more differentiation among students:



## WHAT DO THE ENGLISH PROFICIENCY LEVELS MEAN?

A description of the NYSESLAT Proficiency Levels is provided in the table below.

Level	Description of English Language Proficiency Level	
<b>Entering (Beginning)</b>	A student at the Entering level has great dependence on supports and structures to advance academic language skills and has not yet met the linguistic demands necessary to demonstrate English language proficiency in a variety of academic contexts (settings).	<b>Eligible for ELL Services</b>
<b>Emerging (Low Intermediate)</b>	A student at the Emerging level has some dependence on supports and structures to advance academic language skills and has not yet met the linguistic demands necessary to demonstrate English language proficiency in a variety of academic contexts (settings).	
<b>Transitioning (Intermediate)</b>	A student at the Transitioning level shows some independence in advancing academic language skills, but has yet to meet the linguistic demands necessary to demonstrate English language proficiency in a variety of academic contexts (settings).	
<b>Expanding (Advanced)</b>	A student at the Expanding level shows great independence in advancing academic language skills and is approaching the linguistic demands necessary to demonstrate English language proficiency in a variety of academic contexts (settings).	
<b>Commanding (Proficient)</b>	A student at the Commanding level has met the linguistic demands necessary to demonstrate English language proficiency in a variety of academic contexts (settings). A student at this level is no longer considered an ELL student, but is entitled to receive two years of Former ELL services.	<b>Not Eligible for ELL Services</b>

**IF MY CHILD HAS AN IEP, ARE TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS PERMITTED DURING THE NYSESLAT?**

Yes, testing accommodations are provided for ELLs with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) when taking the NYSESLAT. Speak to your child’s teacher to get specific information about accommodations to which your child may be entitled. For further information, please visit: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nyseslat/>

**WHAT SERVICES IS MY CHILD ENTITLED TO AS AN ELL/MLL?**

Your child is entitled to Bilingual Education (Transitional or Dual Language) and/or English as a New Language (ENL) services. Your child’s proficiency level determines the minutes of ELL services (class time) that he or she will receive each week. See chart below for specific minutes according to proficiency level.

Level	Grades K-8 Minutes of ENL Instruction per week	Grades 9-12 Minutes of ENL Instruction per week*	Students in Bilingual Programs
Entering (Beginning)	360 minutes	540 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Home Language Arts Course</li> <li>• Minimum of 2 bilingual content area subjects</li> </ul>
Emerging (Low Intermediate)	360 minutes	360 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Home Language Arts Course</li> <li>• Minimum of 2 bilingual content area subjects</li> </ul>
Transitioning (Intermediate)	180 minutes	180 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Home Language Arts Course</li> <li>• Minimum of 1 bilingual content area subject</li> </ul>
Expanding (Advanced)	180 minutes	180 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Home Language Arts Course</li> <li>• Minimum of 1 bilingual content area subject</li> </ul>
Commanding (Proficient)	A student at the Commanding level has met the linguistic demands necessary to demonstrate English language proficiency in a variety of academic contexts (settings). A student at this level is no longer considered an ELL student, but is entitled to receive two years of Former ELL services.		

\*A portion of the ENL instruction may be through an integrated content area class.

### **WHAT ARE FORMER ELL SERVICES?**

Once a student reaches the Commanding (Proficient) Level, the student is no longer considered an ELL and is not eligible for ELL services, but is eligible for Former ELL Services. Former ELL Services include .5 unit of study per week of Integrated ENL in ELA/Core Content Area, or other approved Former ELL services for two additional years. These students must continue to receive individualized learning support and assessments that measure language and academic progress to improve academic outcomes.

### **HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PREPARE FOR THE NYSESLAT?**

There are several things that parents can do to help students prepare for the NYSESLAT. Here are some suggestions:

- Make sure your child gets adequate sleep and eats a nutritionally balanced meal prior to each test session.
- Provide positive encouragement and reassurance about the test because that can positively impact your child's test scores.
- Read and review with your child any and all information you receive regarding the testing experience.
- Reassure your child that this assessment is to measure his or her English language development.
- Meet and work closely with your child's classroom and English as a New Language/English as a Second Language (ENL/ESL) or Bilingual teacher for specific supports and recommendations that you may be able to provide at home.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE**

Information about the NYSESLAT can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nyseslat/> and <https://www.engageny.org/resource/spring-2015-nyseslat-resources>. If you have further questions about your child's level of English language proficiency, please contact [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) or call 518-474-5902. Questions regarding bilingual/ENL services may be directed to the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages (OBEWL) by phone at 518-474-8775, or via e-mail at [obefls@nysed.gov](mailto:obefls@nysed.gov).

For questions and concerns about ELL services please contact

[nysparenthotline@nyu.edu](mailto:nysparenthotline@nyu.edu)

ELL Parent Hotline: (800) 469-8224

**Additional questions?**

Please send questions or comments to the Office of Bilingual  
Education and World Languages: [OBFLS@nysed.gov](mailto:OBFLS@nysed.gov)

Or call: 718-722-2445

For more information on the NYSESLAT visit:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/nyseslat/>

