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Office of Standards, Assessment and Reporting

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**TO:** District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools  
Principals of Public and Nonpublic Schools  
Directors of Charter Schools  
Directors of Regional Information Centers

**FROM:** David Abrams 

**SUBJECT:** **NYSESLAT** – Determining a Limited English Proficient/English Language Learner’s English Performance Level

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

This memorandum provides the scale score ranges for the 2008 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) along with guidance and information concerning the interpretation of the scale scores. The NYSESLAT scale score ranges are based on the results of standard-setting in which New York State teachers advise the Department in establishing the appropriate student performance levels at each grade from kindergarten through grade 12.

This document will be posted on the Department’s web site at:  
<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/nyseslat/home.shtml>.

Superintendents and principals are advised to share this information with English as a second language and bilingual education program administrators and coordinators immediately.

**II. RAW SCORE TO SCALE SCORE CONVERSION CHARTS**

NYSESLAT is administered in five grade bands: K-1, 2-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-12. Each grade band has four modalities: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. In order to determine students’ performance level (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, or Proficient\*), their raw scores must be combined as follows:

- $\frac{3}{4}$  Listening & Speaking combined raw score
- $\frac{3}{4}$  Reading & Writing combined raw score

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\* For NYSESLAT scores that are provided by a Regional Information Center (RIC), the performance levels are presented numerically as follows: 21 – Beginner; 22 – Intermediate; 23 – Advanced; 24 – Proficient.

The attached charts (Attachments A-E) should be used to convert each student’s 2008 raw scores to scale scores. Please note that there are separate conversion charts for each of the five grade bands, as follows:

<b>NYSESLAT Grade Band</b>	<b>2008 Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart</b>
K-1	Attachment A
2-4	Attachment B
5-6	Attachment C
7-8	Attachment D
9-12	Attachment E

### III. METHOD FOR DETERMINING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE LEVELS

A student’s English performance level is determined by the scale scores on both the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components of the NYSESLAT.

**The NYSESLAT is the only test that may be used to assess a LEP/ELL’s performance in English or to exit a student from LEP/ELL status.**

The *NYSESLAT Scale Score Ranges Chart* (Attachment F) is used to determine the student’s English performance level. The score ranges differ for **each** grade (K-12). LEP/ELLs are determined to be English proficient when they attain the minimum combined scale scores at the proficient level in **both** Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing. To determine a student’s performance level in Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing, these steps must be followed:

1. Find the appropriate conversion chart for a given student (e.g., Attachment A for a Grade 1 student and Attachment E for a Grade 10 student).
2. Match the student’s combined **raw score** for Listening & Speaking to the corresponding scale score for Listening & Speaking on the “NYSESLAT Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart.”
3. Match the student’s combined **raw score** for Reading & Writing to the corresponding scale score for Reading & Writing on the “NYSESLAT Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart.”
4. Match the student’s grade and **scale score** on Listening & Speaking to the NYSESLAT Scale Score Ranges Chart (Attachment F) to determine the student’s Listening & Speaking performance level.
5. Match the student’s grade and **scale score** on Reading & Writing to the NYSESLAT Scale Score Ranges Chart (Attachment F) to determine the student’s Reading & Writing performance level.

The following guidelines should be followed in determining a student's overall performance level:

- To move from one performance level to the next, the student must score within the range of the higher performance level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.
- LEP/ELLs who have advanced in only one combination of modalities remain at the lower performance level.
- To move from any performance level (beginning, intermediate, or advanced) to the English proficient level, the student must score at the proficient level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.

For instance, a kindergarten student must achieve scale scores of 616 on Listening & Speaking **and** 609 on Reading & Writing to be identified as English proficient. As another example, a first grade student must achieve scale scores of at least 649 on Listening & Speaking **and** 655 on Reading & Writing to be moved to the English proficient category.

#### IV. FURTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

If your school has not received its students' NYSESLAT score data, please contact the Regional Information Center (RIC) or Large City Scanning Center, as applicable. Nonpublic schools should contact the Office of Information and Reporting Services at 518-474-7965.

A description of the ESL performance levels is available on the web site of the Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies at:

<http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/biling/>

If you have further questions about determining any LEP/ELL's level of English proficiency, please contact the Office of State Assessment at [emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov) or call 518-474-5902.

Questions regarding bilingual/ESL services may be directed to the Office of Bilingual Education/Foreign Language Studies (OBE/FLS) by phone at 518-474-8775, or via e-mail at [obefls@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:obefls@mail.nysed.gov).

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**Grades K-1 NYSESLAT 2008**  
**Raw Score to Scaled Score Conversion Chart**

<b>K-1 Listening and Speaking</b>		<b>K-1 Reading and Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scaled Score</b>	<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scaled Score</b>
0	320	0	316
1	370	1	367
2	395	2	394
3	411	3	411
4	422	4	424
5	431	5	434
6	439	6	442
7	446	7	450
8	452	8	456
9	458	9	462
10	463	10	468
11	468	11	473
12	472	12	478
13	476	13	484
14	480	14	489
15	484	15	494
16	488	16	499
17	492	17	504
18	495	18	509
19	499	19	514
20	502	20	519
21	505	21	524
22	508	22	530
23	512	23	535
24	515	24	540
25	518	25	546
26	521	26	551
27	524	27	557
28	527	28	563
29	530	29	569
30	533	30	575
31	536	31	582
32	539	32	589
33	542	33	596
34	546	34	605
35	549	35	615
36	552	36	627
37	555	37	643
38	559	38	670
39	562	39	720
40	566		
41	570		
42	573		
43	577		
44	581		
45	586		
46	590		
47	595		
48	600		
49	605		
50	611		
51	618		
52	625		
53	633		
54	643		
55	655		
56	671		
57	697		
58	748		

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**Grades 2-4 NYSESLAT 2008**  
**Raw Score to Scaled Score Conversion Chart**

2-4 Listening and Speaking		2-4 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score
0	381	0	371
1	430	1	422
2	456	2	449
3	471	3	465
4	483	4	478
5	492	5	488
6	500	6	497
7	506	7	504
8	512	8	511
9	518	9	518
10	523	10	523
11	527	11	529
12	532	12	534
13	536	13	539
14	540	14	544
15	543	15	548
16	547	16	553
17	551	17	557
18	554	18	561
19	557	19	566
20	560	20	570
21	564	21	574
22	567	22	578
23	570	23	582
24	573	24	586
25	576	25	590
26	579	26	594
27	582	27	598
28	584	28	602
29	587	29	606
30	590	30	610
31	593	31	615
32	596	32	619
33	599	33	624
34	602	34	629
35	605	35	634
36	609	36	640
37	612	37	646
38	615	38	653
39	618	39	660
40	622	40	668
41	625	41	677
42	629	42	689
43	633	43	702
44	637	44	721
45	641	45	751
46	645	46	804
47	649		
48	654		
49	659		
50	665		
51	671		
52	678		
53	686		
54	695		
55	707		
56	723		
57	749		
58	798		

**ATTACHMENT C**  
**Grades 5-6 NYSESLAT 2008**  
**Raw Score to Scaled Score Conversion Chart**

5-6 Listening and Speaking		5-6 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score
0	385	0	419
1	435	1	469
2	460	2	495
3	476	3	511
4	487	4	523
5	496	5	533
6	504	6	541
7	511	7	548
8	516	8	554
9	522	9	560
10	527	10	565
11	532	11	570
12	536	12	575
13	540	13	579
14	544	14	583
15	548	15	587
16	551	16	591
17	555	17	595
18	558	18	599
19	562	19	603
20	565	20	606
21	568	21	610
22	571	22	613
23	574	23	617
24	577	24	620
25	580	25	624
26	583	26	627
27	586	27	631
28	589	28	634
29	592	29	638
30	595	30	641
31	598	31	645
32	601	32	649
33	603	33	652
34	606	34	656
35	609	35	660
36	612	36	664
37	616	37	668
38	619	38	673
39	622	39	677
40	625	40	682
41	628	41	687
42	632	42	692
43	635	43	698
44	639	44	704
45	643	45	711
46	647	46	718
47	651	47	727
48	655	48	737
49	660	49	750
50	665	50	766
51	670	51	793
52	676	52	844
53	683		
54	690		
55	699		
56	711		
57	726		
58	752		
59	801		

**ATTACHMENT D**  
**Grades 7-8 NYSESLAT 2008**  
**Raw Score to Scaled Score Conversion Chart**

7-8 Listening and Speaking		7-8 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score
0	428	0	421
1	478	1	471
2	503	2	498
3	519	3	515
4	530	4	527
5	539	5	537
6	547	6	546
7	554	7	553
8	560	8	560
9	565	9	566
10	570	10	571
11	575	11	576
12	579	12	581
13	583	13	586
14	587	14	590
15	591	15	594
16	594	16	598
17	598	17	602
18	601	18	605
19	604	19	609
20	607	20	613
21	610	21	616
22	613	22	619
23	616	23	623
24	619	24	626
25	622	25	629
26	625	26	633
27	627	27	636
28	630	28	639
29	633	29	642
30	636	30	646
31	638	31	649
32	641	32	652
33	644	33	656
34	647	34	659
35	650	35	663
36	653	36	667
37	655	37	670
38	658	38	674
39	661	39	678
40	665	40	683
41	668	41	687
42	671	42	692
43	674	43	697
44	678	44	703
45	682	45	709
46	685	46	716
47	689	47	724
48	694	48	733
49	698	49	745
50	703	50	761
51	708	51	787
52	714	52	837
53	721		
54	728		
55	737		
56	749		
57	764		
58	789		
59	839		

**ATTACHMENT E**  
**Grades 9-12 NYSESLAT 2008**  
**Raw Score to Scaled Score Conversion Chart**

9-12 Listening and Speaking		9-12 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scaled Score	Raw Score	Scaled Score
0	427	0	458
1	477	1	507
2	502	2	533
3	518	3	549
4	529	4	561
5	539	5	570
6	546	6	578
7	553	7	585
8	559	8	591
9	565	9	597
10	570	10	602
11	575	11	607
12	580	12	611
13	584	13	616
14	588	14	620
15	592	15	624
16	596	16	627
17	599	17	631
18	603	18	635
19	606	19	638
20	610	20	642
21	613	21	645
22	616	22	648
23	620	23	651
24	623	24	655
25	626	25	658
26	629	26	661
27	632	27	664
28	635	28	667
29	638	29	670
30	641	30	674
31	644	31	677
32	647	32	680
33	650	33	683
34	653	34	687
35	656	35	690
36	659	36	694
37	662	37	697
38	665	38	701
39	668	39	705
40	671	40	709
41	675	41	714
42	678	42	718
43	681	43	723
44	685	44	728
45	689	45	734
46	693	46	741
47	697	47	749
48	701	48	758
49	706	49	769
50	711	50	784
51	716	51	810
52	722	52	859
53	728		
54	736		
55	745		
56	756		
57	772		
58	797		
59	847		

