



DIRECTOR  
Office of State Assessment

August 2015

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

**FROM:** Steven E. Katz

**SUBJECT:** NYSESLAT – Determining an English Language Learner’s (ELL) English Language Proficiency Level

This memorandum provides the scale score ranges for the 2015 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), along with guidance and information concerning the interpretation of the scale scores.

The 2015 NYSESLAT measures the New York State Common Core Learning Standards and the Bilingual New Language Arts Progressions being taught in classrooms throughout the State. Recognizing that the 2014–15 school year was a transition year, the Department took steps to ensure that the transition did not immediately create greater levels of required services. For the 2015 administration, the statewide percentages of students at the various 2015 NYSESLAT performance levels used for service identification purposes were held to similar levels as were achieved by students on the 2014 NYSESLAT.

Following the 2016 administration of NYSESLAT, the Department will conduct a standard setting. Standard setting is a process whereby New York State teachers will advise the Department in establishing the appropriate student proficiency levels at each grade from Kindergarten through Grade 12 for ongoing application in determining students’ overall proficiency levels. Given the increased rigor of the standards associated with the new NYSESLAT, the convening of a standard setting will likely result in students requiring increased amounts of services beginning with the 2016–17 school year.

Superintendents, principals, and charter school leaders are advised to share this information immediately with English as a New Language and Bilingual Education program administrators and coordinators. In September, individual student NYSESLAT Score Reports will be available in the Level 2 Reporting (L2RPT) environment. For more information on how to access these reports, see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/level2reports/home.html>. Schools are to provide these reports to each student’s parent/guardian.

## RAW SCORE TO SCALE SCORE CONVERSION CHARTS

For 2015, students will receive a scale score for each modality (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking). In addition, each student will receive a total scale score for the test, which is the sum of the student's scale scores for all four modalities. For example, if a student earned a scale score of 60 in each of the four modalities, the student's total scale score would be 240. Also new for 2015, students' proficiency levels will be one of five levels: Entering (Beginning), Emerging (Low Intermediate), Transitioning (Intermediate), Expanding (Advanced), or Commanding (Proficient).\* In order to determine a student's proficiency level, a student's scale scores for all four modalities are summed into a total scale score. A student must receive a valid score on all four modalities in order to receive a proficiency level.

The attached charts (Attachments A–F) should be used to convert a student's 2015 total raw score in each modality (Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking) to a scale score. Please note that there are separate conversion charts for each modality of each of the six grade bands, as follows:

NYSESLAT Grade Band	2015 Raw Scores to Scale Scores Conversion Chart
K	Attachment A
1–2	Attachment B
3–4	Attachment C
5–6	Attachment D
7–8	Attachment E
9–12	Attachment F

## METHOD FOR DETERMINING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY LEVEL

A student's English language proficiency level is determined by his or her total scale score. To achieve the Commanding proficiency level, the student must earn a total scale score in the Commanding range as well as scale scores for each of the four modalities at or above the required modality scale score for the Commanding level. Students who earned a total scale score in the Commanding range but whose scale score on one or more of the modalities was below the required scale score will earn an overall proficiency level of Expanding.

\*For NYSESLAT results that are provided by a Regional Information Center (RIC) or Large City scanning center, the performance levels may be presented numerically as follows: 31 - Entering, 32 – Emerging, 33 - Transitioning, 34 - Expanding, 35 - Commanding.

The chart, “NYSESLAT 2015 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Language Proficiency” (Attachment G), is used to determine the student’s English language proficiency level. The score ranges associated with each proficiency level differ for each grade (K–12). ELL students are determined to be at the Commanding level when they attain the minimum scale score required for each of the four modalities and earn a total scale score in the Commanding range.

To determine a student’s English language proficiency level these steps must be followed:

1. Find the appropriate conversion chart for a given student (e.g., Attachment A for a Grade K student and Attachment F for a Grade 10 student). Be sure to refer to the chart for the grade level that the student was in when he or she took the NYSESLAT in April/May 2015 and not to the grade the student will be enrolled in during the 2015-16 school year.
2. Match the student’s raw score for each modality to the corresponding scale score for that modality.
3. Sum the student’s scale scores for each of the four modalities to determine the student’s total scale score.
4. Match the student’s grade when tested in spring 2015 to the “NYSESLAT 2015 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Language Proficiency” (Attachment G) to determine the student’s overall proficiency level.
5. Note that for a student whose total scale score is in the Commanding range, the student must achieve the required scale scores, as indicated in Attachment G, in each of the four modalities in order to achieve an overall proficiency level of Commanding. A student whose total scale score is in the Commanding range but whose scale score in one or more modalities is below the required scale score will achieve an overall proficiency level of Expanding. For example, to achieve an overall proficiency level of Commanding, a Kindergarten student must earn scale scores in the four modalities at or above the following: Listening – 64, Reading – 74, Writing – 61, and Speaking – 69.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Information about NYSESLAT may be found in the NYSESLAT 2015 School Administrator’s Manual, online at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/sam/nyseslat/nyseslat-sam-15.pdf> or on EngageNY at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/spring-2015-nyseslat-resources>.

If you have further questions about determining any ELL’s level of English language proficiency, please contact the Office of State Assessment at [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).

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. Questions concerning score data may also be directed to the Office of Information and Reporting Services at 518-474-7965.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of New York State students.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Grade K NYSESLAT 2015  
Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>Grade K Listening</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	33
2	38
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	49
7	51
8	53
9	55
10	57
11	59
12	60
13	62
14	65
15	67
16	70
17	74
18	79
19	90

<b>Grade K Reading</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	33
2	39
3	42
4	45
5	48
6	50
7	52
8	54
9	56
10	58
11	60
12	62
13	64
14	67
15	70
16	74
17	79
18	90

<b>Grade K Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	35
2	39
3	41
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	49
8	52
9	55
10	59
11	64
12	70
13	80
14	90

<b>Grade K Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	37
2	42
3	45
4	48
5	50
6	53
7	55
8	57
9	59
10	61
11	62
12	64
13	66
14	68
15	70
16	71
17	73
18	76
19	79
20	83
21	90

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**Grades 1–2 NYSESLAT 2015**  
**Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>Grades 1–2</b>	
<b>Listening</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	32
2	38
3	41
4	44
5	46
6	48
7	49
8	51
9	52
10	53
11	55
12	56
13	57
14	59
15	60
16	61
17	63
18	65
19	66
20	68
21	71
22	74
23	80
24	90

<b>Grades 1–2</b>	
<b>Reading</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	32
2	38
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	49
7	51
8	53
9	54
10	55
11	57
12	58
13	59
14	61
15	62
16	63
17	65
18	66
19	67
20	69
21	71
22	73
23	75
24	78
25	82
26	88
27	90

<b>Grades 1–2</b>	
<b>Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	38
2	43
3	49
4	54
5	58
6	62
7	66
8	69
9	73
10	78
11	83
12	90

<b>Grades 1–2</b>	
<b>Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	38
2	42
3	45
4	47
5	49
6	51
7	53
8	55
9	57
10	59
11	60
12	62
13	64
14	66
15	68
16	70
17	72
18	75
19	78
20	82
21	90

## ATTACHMENT C

### Grades 3–4 NYSESLAT 2015 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grades 3–4 Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	32
2	39
3	43
4	45
5	48
6	50
7	52
8	53
9	55
10	57
11	58
12	60
13	61
14	63
15	64
16	66
17	68
18	70
19	72
20	74
21	77
22	81
23	88
24	90

Grades 3–4 Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	32
2	38
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	49
7	51
8	52
9	54
10	55
11	57
12	58
13	59
14	61
15	62
16	63
17	65
18	66
19	67
20	69
21	71
22	73
23	75
24	78
25	82
26	88
27	90

Grades 3–4 Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	37
2	43
3	47
4	52
5	56
6	60
7	65
8	69
9	73
10	77
11	83
12	90

Grades 3–4 Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	38
2	42
3	46
4	48
5	50
6	52
7	54
8	56
9	58
10	59
11	61
12	63
13	64
14	66
15	68
16	70
17	72
18	74
19	77
20	82
21	90

**ATTACHMENT D**  
**Grades 5–6 NYSESLAT 2015**  
**Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>Grades 5–6</b>	
<b>Listening</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	32
2	39
3	43
4	46
5	48
6	50
7	52
8	54
9	55
10	57
11	59
12	60
13	62
14	63
15	65
16	66
17	68
18	70
19	72
20	75
21	77
22	81
23	88
24	90

<b>Grades 5–6</b>	
<b>Reading</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	32
2	38
3	41
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	48
8	50
9	51
10	52
11	53
12	55
13	56
14	57
15	58
16	59
17	60
18	61
19	63
20	64
21	65
22	67
23	69
24	72
25	75
26	80
27	90

<b>Grades 5–6</b>	
<b>Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	37
2	42
3	47
4	51
5	55
6	59
7	63
8	67
9	72
10	77
11	82
12	90

<b>Grades 5–6</b>	
<b>Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	38
2	42
3	46
4	48
5	50
6	52
7	54
8	56
9	58
10	59
11	61
12	63
13	64
14	66
15	68
16	70
17	72
18	75
19	78
20	82
21	90

**ATTACHMENT E**  
**Grades 7–8 NYSESLAT 2015**  
**Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>Grades 7–8</b>	
<b>Listening</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	32
2	38
3	41
4	44
5	46
6	48
7	49
8	51
9	52
10	53
11	55
12	56
13	57
14	59
15	60
16	61
17	63
18	65
19	66
20	68
21	71
22	74
23	80
24	90

<b>Grades 7–8</b>	
<b>Reading</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	33
2	39
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	49
7	51
8	53
9	54
10	55
11	57
12	58
13	59
14	61
15	62
16	63
17	65
18	66
19	67
20	69
21	71
22	73
23	75
24	78
25	81
26	87
27	90

<b>Grades 7–8</b>	
<b>Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	38
2	43
3	48
4	52
5	56
6	59
7	63
8	67
9	72
10	76
11	82
12	90

<b>Grades 7–8</b>	
<b>Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	38
2	42
3	45
4	48
5	51
6	53
7	55
8	56
9	58
10	60
11	62
12	63
13	65
14	67
15	69
16	71
17	73
18	75
19	78
20	83
21	90

## ATTACHMENT F

### Grades 9–12 NYSESLAT 2015 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

<b>Grades 9–12</b>	
<b>Listening</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	32
2	39
3	43
4	46
5	48
6	50
7	52
8	54
9	56
10	57
11	59
12	60
13	62
14	63
15	65
16	66
17	68
18	70
19	72
20	74
21	77
22	81
23	88
24	90

<b>Grades 9–12</b>	
<b>Reading</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	32
2	38
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	49
7	51
8	52
9	54
10	55
11	57
12	58
13	59
14	61
15	62
16	63
17	65
18	66
19	67
20	69
21	71
22	73
23	75
24	78
25	82
26	88
27	90

<b>Grades 9–12</b>	
<b>Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	39
2	44
3	48
4	51
5	55
6	58
7	62
8	66
9	70
10	75
11	81
12	90

<b>Grades 9–12</b>	
<b>Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	38
2	43
3	47
4	50
5	53
6	55
7	57
8	59
9	61
10	63
11	64
12	66
13	67
14	69
15	71
16	72
17	74
18	76
19	79
20	83
21	90

## ATTACHMENT G

### NYSESLAT 2015

#### SCALE SCORE RANGES FOR DETERMINING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

To determine a student's overall proficiency level, find the student's total scale score in the scale score ranges on this chart. Note that to achieve the Commanding proficiency level, the student must earn a total scale score in the Commanding range as well as scale scores for each of the four modalities at or above the "Scale Score Required for Each Modality" shown on this chart.

Grade	Entering	Emerging	Transitioning	Expanding	Commanding	
	(Beginning)	(Low Intermediate)	(Intermediate)	(Advanced)	(Proficient)	
	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score Required for Each Modality
K	120-218	219-245	246-260	261-306	307-360	L - 64 W - 61 R - 74 S - 69
1	120-187	188-213	214-230	231-268	269-360	L - 60 W - 54 R - 58 S - 72
2	120-202	203-227	228-242	243-289	290-360	L - 61 W - 54 R - 58 S - 73
3	120-213	214-239	240-256	257-291	292-360	L - 63 W - 56 R - 62 S - 73
4	120-218	219-240	241-256	257-293	294-360	L - 63 W - 56 R - 62 S - 73
5	120-215	216-231	232-244	245-292	293-360	L - 63 W - 56 R - 59 S - 74
6	120-220	221-235	236-246	247-292	293-360	L - 63 W - 56 R - 59 S - 74
7	120-223	224-244	245-257	258-289	290-360	L - 60 W - 57 R - 61 S - 73
8	120-224	225-245	246-260	261-300	301-360	L - 60 W - 57 R - 61 S - 73
9	120-209	210-232	233-253	254-286	287-360	L - 64 W - 57 R - 62 S - 72
10	120-219	220-241	242-259	260-292	293-360	L - 64 W - 57 R - 62 S - 72
11	120-219	220-246	247-260	261-297	298-360	L - 64 W - 57 R - 62 S - 72
12	120-219	220-246	247-260	261-297	298-360	L - 64 W - 57 R - 62 S - 72

**Key:** L=Listening R=Reading W=Writing S=Speaking