

**For Public Comment: Proposed Waiver to Measurement of Speaking and Listening English and Language Arts Content Standards for 2015-16 and 2016-17 School Years**

On March 2, 2016, the United States Department of Education issued guidance to state education departments describing how to apply for a waiver of the requirement that the state's assessment system measure academic achievement for speaking and listening, if the Department has adopted those as part of its reading/language arts content standards. In order to be eligible for this waiver, the Department must consult with stakeholders in advance of submitting its waiver request.

In accordance with this requirement, the New York State Education Department informs you of its intent to request a waiver to allow the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests and the Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core) to continue to measure only reading and writing standards, with speaking and listening maintained as content standards for classroom instruction, through the 2016-17 school year. Future standards for speaking and listening content and their measurement will be determined as part of the Revision and Implementation of New ELA and Mathematics Standards, which began in March 2016. This waiver will advance student achievement by permitting New York to have a valid and reliable assessment system while the standards revision takes place.

If you would like to submit comments regarding this waiver application, please send them by email to [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov). Please indicate "Waiver of Speaking and Listening Assessment Submission" in the subject line of your email. Comments must be received by April 8, 2016.