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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, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools
Coordinators of English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education

FROM: David Abrams 

SUBJECT: Adjustment to the Exemption Date for English Language Learners for the 2010 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests

On July 22, 2009, the Department posted a revised 2009-10 Elementary- and Intermediate-level testing schedule, which included a change in the administration date from January to late April for the 2010 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) Tests. This change necessitates an adjustment to the date used to determine whether recently arrived English Language Learners may be exempted from these tests. Effective with the April 2010 administration, schools are permitted to exempt from the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests:

- English Language Learners (including those from Puerto Rico) who, on **April 1, 2010**, will have been attending school in the United States for the first time for less than one year.

Recently arrived English Language Learners may be eligible for *one, and only one exemption* from the administration of the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests. Subject to this limitation, schools may administer the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) in lieu of the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests, for participation purposes only, to recently arrived English Language Learners who meet the criterion above. All other English Language Learners must participate in the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests, as well as in the NYSESLAT.

The revised administration dates for the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests will be reflected in the 2010 edition of the School Administrator's Manual. A revised version of the memorandum, *Procedures for Requesting, Shipping, and Storing of Materials for the 2009-10 Administration of the New York State Elementary- and Intermediate-Level Tests*, mailed to schools in August, will be posted on the Department's web site at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/elintgen.html>. Please take

into account the revised exemption date when submitting your school's request for the 2010 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests.

All schools that have not yet requested the 2010 Grades 3-8 English Language Arts Tests may do so via the Department's online request system at <http://portal.nysed.gov>. Online requests for all elementary- and intermediate-level tests must be submitted no later than **October 7, 2009**. Administrators who find they need additional test materials for any elementary- or intermediate-level tests may return to the online examination request system to revise or to add any supplemental quantities.

If you have any questions concerning the exemption date for English Language Learners for the Grades 3-8 English Language Tests, you may contact the Office of State Assessment by sending an e-mail to emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov or by calling 518-474-5902. We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with you.