



BUREAU CHIEF, TEST ADMINISTRATION
Office of State Assessment

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TO: Principals of Elementary, Intermediate, and Secondary Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

FROM: Barbara M. Wallis *Barbara M. Wallis*

SUBJECT: Procedures for Requesting, Administering, and Storing the 2013–14 Language Assessment Battery–Revised (LAB–R)

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT NYSITELL

Pursuant to Part 154 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, public and charter schools must administer an identification test to newly enrolled students who by reason of foreign birth or ancestry speak a language other than English, and who understand and speak little or no English, to determine whether they are English language learners (ELLs). (For your information, a chart entitled *New York State – LEP [Limited English Proficient] Identification Process* is included with this memorandum.)

From the start of this school year through January 31, 2014, the LAB–R materials developed by the New York City Department of Education and adopted by the State Education Department will continue to be used by all schools statewide to identify ELLs. Nonpublic schools are encouraged to administer this test for the same purpose.

Any schools that have unused LAB–R materials remaining from the 2012–13 school year may use them until January 31, 2014. Schools that have some LAB–R materials remaining from 2012–13, but not enough for the fall semester of the 2013–14 school year are authorized to make photocopies of these materials for the administration of this test to students and/or for training school personnel in the administration of this test. **If your school's supply is insufficient and photocopying sufficient quantities of the materials is not feasible, e.g., the K–1 Illustration Book is needed, your school may submit a request using the Department's online examination request system to obtain additional materials up until November 30, 2013. After that date schools will no longer be able to order LAB-R materials through the online examination request system and will have to contact OSA by phone at 518-474-8220 if additional materials are needed to administer the test to new entrants through January 31, 2014.**

Effective February 1, 2014, a new State test, the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) will take the place of the LAB–R test currently used for the statewide identification of ELLs. NYSITELL will be based on, and be similar to, the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), but abbreviated in length. The NYSITELL will replace the Language Assessment Battery–Revised (LAB–R) as the approved means of initially identifying ELLs in New York State.

Instructions for school administrators on the ordering of NYSITELL materials via the Department's online examination request system will be provided through e-mail by November 1. Schools that submit a request for NYSITELL by November 30, 2013 can expect to receive delivery of the materials the week of January 27, 2014.

ACCESSING THE ONLINE EXAMINATION REQUEST SYSTEM

Directions for using the Department's online examination request system are included in this memorandum and in the *Instructions for Submitting Language Assessment Battery–Revised (LAB–R) Examination Requests Online* (DET 1349).

A username and password are required for access into the online examination request system available at <http://portal.nysed.gov>. If you were the principal of the same school during the 2012–13 school year, the expectation is that you know your username and password.

If you were the principal of the same school during the 2012–13 school year, but you have forgotten or need to reset your password, use the “Reset Password” utility available at <http://portal.nysed.gov>. More information on this utility may be obtained from the Department's Delegated Account System (SEDDAS) Help Desk at 518-473-8832 or seddas_help@mail.nysed.gov.

If you are a **new** principal and do not have a valid username and password, determine which of the following situations applies to you.

- **Principals of Public Schools or BOCES Programs Located Outside of New York City:** Contact your School Superintendent or Delegated Administrator to obtain your username and password.
- **Principals of Nonpublic Schools and Leaders of Non-New York City Charter Schools:** Contact the Department's Delegated Account System (SEDDAS) Help Desk at 518-473-8832 or seddas_help@mail.nysed.gov to obtain your username and password. If you have not yet done so, you must notify the Department's Office of Information and Reporting Services via fax to 518-402-5361 or 474-4351 that you are the new principal. This notice must be written on school letterhead stationery and must include your full name, your e-mail address, your school's BEDS Code, your previous position, and, for purposes of future password confirmations, your city of birth.

All questions regarding usernames and passwords for public schools **must** be directed to your Delegated Administrator in your local school district or for nonpublic schools the SEDDAS Help Desk at 518-473-8832 or seddas_help@mail.nysed.gov.

REQUESTING LAB–R MATERIALS

All regular and large-type editions of LAB–R **must** be requested through the Department's online examination request system. Telephone requests will not be accepted. The Department will accept and enter online on the school's behalf *only* requests that are submitted by fax for the *braille edition* of LAB–R.

Initial online requests for LAB–R may be submitted as soon as you have received this memorandum. Request only those quantities of exams actually needed for administration in the 2013–14 school year. It is very important that you carefully check the confirmation notice for accuracy to ensure that the correct quantities of exam materials will be shipped to your school. If a confirmation has not been received after three (3) business days, please contact the Office of State Assessment's (OSA's) Operations Group by fax at 518-474-2021.

If you need additional test materials, supplemental requests must be placed by September 16 for delivery of test materials on or about September 20, 2013.

Guidelines for requesting specific materials are provided below. A request must be submitted for each school building in which the tests will be administered. The requests for two or more schools in a district should **not** be combined into one request.

- **Regular Test Booklets:** Indicate the number of test booklets you will need for each of the five grade bands for the test. Your school will be sent the number of test booklets requested, rounded up to the next multiple of 20.

- **Large-Type Test Materials:** Indicate the **exact number** of students who will need large-type test materials at each grade band for students whose Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or Section 504 Accommodation Plans (504 Plans) specifically require this accommodation. Schools may not submit requests for these special editions of LAB–R unless they will be needed for actual administrations. Schools may request these special editions of LAB–R at any time in the future, should the need arise.
- **Braille:** The braille edition of LAB–R cannot be requested via the online examination request system. Braille editions must be requested in a separate letter signed by the principal and faxed to the Department at 518-474-2021. The letter must specify the **exact quantity** needed for students whose IEPs and 504 Plans specifically require this accommodation.
- **Answer Sheets:** Templates for schools to use in photocopying hand-scorable answer sheets for the LAB–R are included in the *Examiner’s Directions*.
- **Examiner’s Directions:** The Department will send schools sufficient quantities of the *Examiner’s Directions* based on the number of tests requested.

SCHEDULING LAB–R

LAB–R should be administered to eligible students within two weeks of their initial enrollment through January 31, 2014. After that, the NYSITELL will be administered, and the LAB–R will no longer be available. Screening with LAB–R is not necessary if the student’s English language learner status is available from his or her previous school and is based on an appropriate standardized test, such as the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), administered during a prior school year.

SHIPPING 2013–14 LAB–R TEST MATERIALS

Materials for LAB–R requested between September 3 and September 16, 2013 will be delivered on or about September 20, 2013. All test shipments will be delivered by UPS between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

OBTAINING ADDITIONAL LAB–R MATERIALS

Principals who find they need additional LAB–R materials after the initial submission may return to the online examination request system up until November 30 to revise or add any supplemental quantities needed.

EXAM STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Every principal requesting State tests must provide any information or affirmations required by the online request system. Your agreement to the security pledge on the first screen indicates that you understand and agree to store all LAB–R materials in a secure storage location as soon as they are received. Access to the test materials must be restricted to ensure that test security is maintained.

The principal of each school requesting LAB–R materials is responsible for making the necessary arrangements to safeguard the test materials delivered to the school. If the building where the tests will be administered does not have a secure location large enough to hold the test materials, arrangements must be made to store the test materials at an alternate location.

When requesting your tests on the online examination request system, **if you indicate that your tests will be stored at an alternate storage location other than that indicated in the shipping information, you are required to complete the *Examination Storage Plan* form (DET 1347) available on the online examination request system, and fax it to OSA at 518-474-2021.**

Except for the purpose of taking inventory of the test materials when they are received, secure test materials for the Listening, Reading, and Writing sections of LAB–R may not be removed from the secure storage location until the day scheduled for the administration of that section of the test. The sealed packages of secure test materials must not be opened during the inventory.

Since the teachers score the speaking sessions of the test as they are administering them individually to students, teachers must be given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the materials for that part of the test prior to beginning administrations. Principals must caution teachers to safeguard these materials whenever they are outside the secure storage location.

LAB–R is a secure test. No one may make notes of any of the questions from the test. The school principal may authorize school personnel to make photocopies of secure LAB–R test materials should the school’s supply be insufficient, but the principal must ensure that all original and photocopied LAB–R materials are stored in the school’s designated secure location.

The materials for LAB–R remain secure after test administration and should be retained in a secure location in the school for administration to new entrants who enroll in the school later in the school year, until February 1, 2014, when NYSITELL begins administration. LAB–R test materials should not be returned to the Department unless the school expects to have no further use for them.

If you have questions concerning the requesting of test materials, or about any of the other information in this memorandum, please call 518-474-8220, or e-mail emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov for assistance.