



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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Assistant Commissioner

Office of Assessment, Standards and Curriculum

**TO:** Educators working with the 2016 New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA) English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics Assessments

**FROM:** Peter Swerdzewski, Assistant Commissioner  
Assessment, Standards, and Curriculum

**DATE:** April 8, 2016

**SUBJECT:** New Policy on Language Translation for NYSAA for ELA and Math

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has partnered with a national organization known as Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). The NYSAA for ELA and mathematics will be assessed using the DLM computer-based adaptive assessments.

Our students with significant cognitive disabilities have very different communication challenges, especially those NYSAA-eligible students with English language learning (ELL) needs. NYSED is following the recommendation from DLM regarding the policy of language translation as outlined in the Testing Administration Manual (TAM) on page 51 ([http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/Manuals/tam\\_ye\\_2015-16\\_NY.pdf](http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/sites/default/files/documents/Manuals/tam_ye_2015-16_NY.pdf)). Unless exceptions are noted on the Testlet Information Page (TIP) or at the beginning of a test section, the text can be translated and the students' answers accepted in English or their own native language. The school is responsible for the translation process and procedure for the DLM assessments.

