



DIRECTOR  
Office of State Assessment

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**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 *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 2016 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), along with guidance and information concerning the interpretation of the scale scores.

The NYSESLAT scale score ranges associated with the overall proficiency levels for Grades 1–12 are based on the results of standard setting, a process during which New York State educators advised the Department in establishing the appropriate student proficiency levels at each grade level. For Kindergarten, the statewide percentages of students at the various 2016 NYSESLAT proficiency levels used for service identification purposes were held to similar levels as were achieved by Kindergarten students on the 2015 NYSESLAT. Because many changes were made to the Kindergarten NYSESLAT for 2016, the Department will closely study the performance of Kindergarten students on this grade level test for at least one more year to determine if adjustments are appropriate to the total scale score range associated with each proficiency level.

Please note that in accordance with CR Part 154, ELLs can exit ELL status in the following ways:

- Grades K–12: Scoring at the Commanding level on the NYSESLAT  
OR
- Grades 3–8: Scoring at the Expanding level on the NYSESLAT and level 3 or above on the New York State English Language Arts (ELA) assessment within the same school year
- Grades 9–12: Scoring at the Expanding level on the NYSESLAT and 65 or above on the Regents Exam in English within the same 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 2016, 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. Students’ proficiency levels will be one of five levels: Entering, Emerging, Transitioning, Expanding, or Commanding.\* 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 2016 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	2016 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. For 2016, the determination that a student has achieved the Commanding proficiency level is based solely on the student’s total scale score. Unlike in past years, to achieve the Commanding level it will not be necessary for a student to score at or above a required modality scale score in each of the four modalities in addition to earning a total scale score in the Commanding range. The chart, “NYSESLAT 2016 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).

\*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

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 2016 and not to the grade the student will be enrolled in during the 2016–17 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 2016 to the "NYSESLAT 2016 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Language Proficiency" (Attachment G) to determine the student's overall proficiency level.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Information about NYSESLAT may be found in the NYSESLAT 2016 School Administrator's Manual, online at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/sam/nyseslat/nyseslat-sam-16.pdf> or on EngageNY at <https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-english-a-second-language-achievement-test-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 2016  
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	58
12	60
13	62
14	64
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	43
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	38
2	43
3	47
4	50
5	53
6	55
7	58
8	60
9	63
10	66
11	69
12	73
13	80
14	90

<b>Grade K Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	38
2	43
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 B**  
**Grades 1–2 NYSESLAT 2016**  
**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	33
2	39
3	42
4	44
5	47
6	48
7	50
8	51
9	53
10	54
11	55
12	57
13	58
14	59
15	61
16	62
17	64
18	65
19	67
20	69
21	71
22	75
23	80
24	90

<b>Grades 1–2</b>	
<b>Reading</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	31
2	36
3	40
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	49
8	50
9	52
10	53
11	55
12	56
13	57
14	58
15	60
16	61
17	62
18	64
19	65
20	67
21	68
22	70
23	73
24	75
25	79
26	85
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	77
11	82
12	90

<b>Grades 1–2</b>	
<b>Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	43
2	48
3	51
4	53
5	55
6	57
7	59
8	60
9	62
10	64
11	65
12	67
13	68
14	70
15	72
16	74
17	76
18	78
19	81
20	85
21	90

**ATTACHMENT C**  
**Grades 3–4 NYSESLAT 2016**  
**Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>Grades 3–4</b>	
<b>Listening</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	34
2	40
3	44
4	47
5	49
6	51
7	53
8	55
9	56
10	58
11	59
12	61
13	62
14	64
15	65
16	67
17	68
18	70
19	72
20	75
21	77
22	81
23	87
24	90

<b>Grades 3–4</b>	
<b>Reading</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	33
2	39
3	43
4	46
5	48
6	50
7	52
8	53
9	55
10	56
11	57
12	59
13	60
14	61
15	63
16	64
17	65
18	67
19	68
20	70
21	71
22	73
23	76
24	78
25	82
26	88
27	90

<b>Grades 3–4</b>	
<b>Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
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

<b>Grades 3–4</b>	
<b>Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	41
2	45
3	48
4	51
5	53
6	55
7	56
8	58
9	59
10	61
11	62
12	64
13	66
14	67
15	69
16	71
17	73
18	75
19	79
20	83
21	90

**ATTACHMENT D**

**Grades 5–6 NYSESLAT 2016  
Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart**

<b>Grades 5–6 Listening</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	32
2	38
3	42
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	69
19	71
20	74
21	77
22	81
23	87
24	90

<b>Grades 5–6 Reading</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	34
2	39
3	42
4	45
5	47
6	48
7	50
8	51
9	52
10	54
11	55
12	56
13	57
14	58
15	59
16	60
17	62
18	63
19	64
20	66
21	67
22	69
23	71
24	73
25	76
26	82
27	90

<b>Grades 5–6 Writing</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	38
2	43
3	47
4	51
5	55
6	59
7	64
8	68
9	73
10	78
11	83
12	90

<b>Grades 5–6 Speaking</b>	
<b>Raw Score</b>	<b>Scale Score</b>
0	30
1	44
2	48
3	51
4	53
5	55
6	57
7	59
8	60
9	62
10	63
11	65
12	66
13	68
14	70
15	72
16	73
17	76
18	78
19	81
20	85
21	90

**ATTACHMENT E**  
**Grades 7–8 NYSESLAT 2016**  
**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	37
3	41
4	43
5	45
6	47
7	49
8	50
9	52
10	53
11	54
12	56
13	57
14	58
15	60
16	61
17	63
18	64
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	32
2	38
3	42
4	44
5	47
6	49
7	50
8	52
9	54
10	55
11	56
12	58
13	59
14	60
15	62
16	63
17	64
18	66
19	67
20	69
21	71
22	73
23	75
24	78
25	81
26	88
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	55
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	41
2	46
3	49
4	51
5	54
6	56
7	57
8	59
9	61
10	63
11	64
12	66
13	68
14	69
15	71
16	73
17	75
18	77
19	80
20	85
21	90

## ATTACHMENT F

### Grades 9–12 NYSESLAT 2016 Raw to Scale Score Conversion Chart

Grades 9–12	
Listening	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	34
2	40
3	44
4	47
5	50
6	52
7	54
8	56
9	57
10	59
11	60
12	62
13	63
14	65
15	67
16	68
17	70
18	72
19	74
20	76
21	79
22	83
23	89
24	90

Grades 9–12	
Reading	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	33
2	39
3	43
4	46
5	48
6	50
7	52
8	53
9	55
10	56
11	58
12	59
13	60
14	62
15	63
16	64
17	65
18	67
19	68
20	70
21	72
22	74
23	76
24	79
25	82
26	88
27	90

Grades 9–12	
Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	38
2	44
3	48
4	51
5	55
6	58
7	62
8	66
9	70
10	75
11	81
12	90

Grades 9–12	
Speaking	
Raw Score	Scale Score
0	30
1	46
2	50
3	53
4	55
5	57
6	59
7	60
8	62
9	63
10	65
11	66
12	68
13	69
14	71
15	72
16	74
17	76
18	78
19	81
20	85
21	90

**ATTACHMENT G**  
**NYSESLAT 2016**  
**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.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Entering</b>	<b>Emerging</b>	<b>Transitioning</b>	<b>Expanding</b>	<b>Commanding</b>
	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score	Scale Score
K	120–212	213–244	245–263	264–315	316–360
1	120–170	171–215	216–251	252–295	296–360
2	120–180	181–227	228–264	265–307	308–360
3	120–170	171–216	217–258	259–303	304–360
4	120–181	182–228	229–265	266–310	311–360
5	120–172	173–214	215–257	258–300	301–360
6	120–180	181–219	220–258	259–300	301–360
7	120–169	170–212	213–249	250–299	300–360
8	120–169	170–212	213–249	250–305	306–360
9	120–175	176–220	221–262	263–317	318–360
10	120–175	176–220	221–262	263–317	318–360
11	120–178	179–220	221–262	263–317	318–360
12	120–178	179–220	221–262	263–317	318–360