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TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools
Principals of Public, Nonpublic, and Charter Schools

FROM: Gerald E. DeMauro, Coordinator

SUBJECT: New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT)
Raw Score Ranges

GENERAL INFORMATION

The *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Act requires that the English proficiency of all limited-English-proficient (LEP) students (as defined in Education Law §3204[2-a][3]) be measured annually. NCLB also requires that the English language proficiency of LEP students be measured as part of the Title I school accountability program. To comply with the NCLB requirement, New York State introduced a new assessment of the English proficiency of LEP students, the NYSESLAT, and in May 2003 all LEP students enrolled in grades Kindergarten to 12 in all public and charter schools were required to take it. Nonpublic schools were encouraged to administer the NYSESLAT to their LEP students.

This memorandum provides guidance and information concerning the interpretation of raw scores on the NYSESLAT test. A copy of this memorandum is being sent to the principal of each public, nonpublic, and charter school, to each district superintendent and to each public and nonpublic school superintendent. This document is also posted on the New York State Education Department's web site at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/testing/nyseslat.html>. Superintendents and principals are advised to share this information with ESL/Bilingual program administrators and coordinators immediately. If you have any questions concerning any of the information in this memorandum, please call 518-474-5902 for assistance.

NYSESLAT RAW SCORE RANGES (2003 Administration)

NYSESLAT has five grade levels: K-1, 2-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-12. Each grade level has four modalities: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. The attached table shows the information that can be derived from the raw scores in the four modalities of the NYSESLAT test. The table presents the raw score ranges for the combination of modalities required to determine the student's level of English proficiency (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and English Proficient) as follows:

- (1) Listening & Speaking (combined score)
- (2) Reading & Writing (combined score)

The Comprehension score, which is the combined score of Listening & Reading, is provided for informational purposes.

DETERMINING ESL PROFICIENCY LEVELS

To determine a student's level of English proficiency, match the student's scores on the NYSESLAT test to the raw score ranges for Listening and Speaking (L&S) and Reading and Writing (R&W) on the table.

- To move from one level of proficiency to the next, the LEP student must score within the range of the higher proficiency level in both combinations of modalities.
- To move from the limited English proficient level to the English proficient level, the LEP student must score at the proficient level in both combinations of modalities.
- LEP students who have moved in only one combination of modalities should remain at the lower proficiency level.
- A description of the ESL Proficiency Levels is available on the Office of Bilingual Education's website at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/nysben.html>.

*In summary, LEP students are determined to be English proficient when they achieve the **minimum** combined raw scores at the proficient level in both Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing*

For example, the student in Level I (K-1) must achieve at least 32 raw score points on Listening & Speaking, and a 36 raw score points on Reading & Writing to be classified as English proficient. These students are no longer LEP and must be provided programs and services in the general education program.

HOW THE RAW SCORES WERE DETERMINED

A raw score is the number of points a student achieves. The raw score for NYSESLAT is derived by using all multiple-choice and open-ended items on the NYSESLAT test. Each multiple-choice item on the Listening and Reading sections of the test are worth 1 point. The value of each open-ended item on the Speaking and Writing sections of the test depend on the number of points in the rubric used to score the item. For instance, if a 3-point rubric is used, the item would be worth 3 points.

The combined raw scores were derived as follows:

- (1) Listening & Speaking: using all multiple-choice items on the Listening section and all the open-ended items in the Speaking section of the test.

- (2) Reading & Writing: using all multiple-choice items on the Reading section and all the open-ended items in the Writing section of the test.
- (3) Comprehension (Listening & Reading): using all the multiple choice items on the Listening section and all of the multiple choice items on the Reading section.

These raw score ranges apply only to the 2003 Administration of NYSESLAT. Raw scores cannot be compared from year to year.

If you have not received your students' NYSESLAT raw score data, please contact your Regional Information Center (RIC).

SCALE SCORES

The raw score-to-scale score conversion tables for 2003 NYSESLAT will be available by September 2003. The ESL proficiency levels will remain the same on both the raw score and the raw score-to-scale score conversion tables.

Please fax your comments on the NYSESLAT raw scores ranges to my attention at 518-474-1989. Your comments will be helpful in planning for the implementation of the scale scores.

cc: Carmen Perez Hogan