



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
Office of Assessment Policy, Development and Administration

July 2011

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools
Principals of Public, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools
Directors of Regional Information Centers

FROM: David Abrams 

SUBJECT: NYSESLAT – Determining an English Language Learner's (ELL) English Performance Level

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

This memorandum provides the scale score ranges for the 2011 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 are based on the results of standard setting, a process where New York State teachers advise the Department in establishing the appropriate student performance levels at each grade from Kindergarten through Grade 12.

This document will be posted on the Department's web site at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/nyseslat/>.

Superintendents and principals are advised to share this information immediately with English as a second language and bilingual education program administrators and coordinators. Individual Student Parent Reports will be sent to schools to provide each student's parent/guardian with the results of their child's NYSESLAT. An interpretative guide will also be available to explain the scores. We appreciate all the hard work you do to help implement the policies of the New York State Testing Program.

II. RAW SCORE TO SCALE SCORE CONVERSION CHARTS

NYSESLAT is administered in five grade bands: K–1, 2–4, 5–6, 7–8, and 9–12. Each grade band has four modalities: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. In order to determine students' performance levels (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, or Proficient*), their raw scores must be combined as follows:

- Listening & Speaking combined raw score
- Reading & Writing combined raw score

*For NYSESLAT scores that are provided by a Regional Information Center (RIC) or Large City scanning centers, the performance levels are presented numerically as follows: 21 – Beginner; 22 – Intermediate; 23 – Advanced; 24 – Proficient.

The attached charts (Attachments A–E) should be used to convert a student's 2011 raw scores to scale scores. Please note that there are separate conversion charts for each of the five grade bands, as follows:

NYSESLAT Grade Band	2011 Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart
K–1	Attachment A
2–4	Attachment B
5–6	Attachment C
7–8	Attachment D
9–12	Attachment E

III. METHOD FOR DETERMINING ENGLISH LANGUAGE PERFORMANCE LEVELS

A student's English performance level is determined by the scale scores on both the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components of the NYSESLAT.

The NYSESLAT is the only test that may be used to assess an ELL student's performance in English or to exit a student from ELL status.

The chart, "NYSESLAT 2011 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Proficiency" (Attachment F), is used to determine the student's English performance level. The score ranges differ for **each** grade (K–12). ELL students are determined to be English proficient when they attain the minimum combined scale scores at the proficient level in **both** Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing. To determine a student's performance level in Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing, these steps must be followed:

1. Find the appropriate conversion chart for a given student (e.g., Attachment A for a Grade 1 student and Attachment E 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 2011 and not in the grade the student will be enrolled during the 2011–2012 school year.
2. Match the student's combined **raw score** for Listening & Speaking to the corresponding scale score for Listening & Speaking on the "NYSESLAT Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart."
3. Match the student's combined **raw score** for Reading & Writing to the corresponding scale score for Reading & Writing on the "NYSESLAT Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart."
4. Match the student's grade and **scale score** on Listening & Speaking to the "NYSESLAT 2011 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Proficiency" (Attachment F) to determine the student's Listening & Speaking performance level.
5. Match the student's grade and **scale score** on Reading & Writing to the "NYSESLAT 2011 Scale Score Ranges for Determining English Proficiency" (Attachment F) to determine the student's Reading & Writing performance level.

The following guidelines should be followed in determining a student's overall performance level:

- To move from one performance level to the next, the student must score within the range of the higher performance level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.
- ELL students who have advanced in only one combination of modalities remain at the lower performance level.
- To move from any performance level (beginning, intermediate, or advanced) to the English proficient level, the student must score at the proficient level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.

Some examples include: 1) a kindergarten student must achieve scale scores of 616 on Listening & Speaking **and** 609 on Reading & Writing to be identified as English proficient, and 2) a first grade student must achieve scale scores of at least 649 on Listening & Speaking **and** 655 on Reading & Writing to be identified as English proficient.

IV. FURTHER QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

A description of the English as a second language performance indicators by grade level is available on the web site of the Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/>.

If you have further questions about determining any ELL student's level of English proficiency, please contact the Office of Assessment Policy, Development and Administration at emscassessinfo@mail.nysed.gov or call 518-474-5902.

Questions regarding bilingual/ESL services may be directed to the Office of Bilingual Education/Foreign Language Studies (OBE/FLS) by phone at 518-474-8775, or via e-mail at obefls@mail.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. The Department will send the NYSESLAT results to nonpublic schools in the beginning of September when schools re-open. Questions should 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
Grades K-1 NYSESLAT 2011
Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart

K-1 Listening and Speaking		K-1 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score
0	322	0	315
1	372	1	367
2	398	2	395
3	413	3	412
4	425	4	425
5	434	5	436
6	442	6	444
7	449	7	452
8	455	8	458
9	461	9	464
10	466	10	470
11	470	11	475
12	475	12	480
13	479	13	485
14	483	14	490
15	487	15	494
16	491	16	499
17	494	17	503
18	498	18	508
19	501	19	512
20	505	20	517
21	508	21	522
22	511	22	526
23	514	23	531
24	517	24	536
25	520	25	541
26	523	26	546
27	526	27	551
28	529	28	557
29	532	29	563
30	535	30	569
31	538	31	575
32	541	32	582
33	544	33	590
34	548	34	599
35	551	35	610
36	554	36	622
37	557	37	640
38	560	38	667
39	564	39	718
40	567		
41	571		
42	575		
43	578		
44	583		
45	587		
46	591		
47	596		
48	601		
49	606		
50	612		
51	618		
52	626		
53	634		
54	644		
55	656		
56	672		
57	699		
58	749		

ATTACHMENT B
Grades 2-4 NYSESLAT 2011
Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart

2-4 Listening and Speaking		2-4 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score
0	388	0	374
1	437	1	424
2	463	2	450
3	478	3	467
4	490	4	479
5	499	5	489
6	507	6	498
7	513	7	505
8	519	8	512
9	525	9	519
10	530	10	525
11	535	11	530
12	539	12	536
13	543	13	541
14	547	14	546
15	551	15	551
16	554	16	555
17	558	17	560
18	561	18	564
19	565	19	569
20	568	20	573
21	571	21	578
22	574	22	582
23	577	23	586
24	580	24	590
25	583	25	594
26	586	26	599
27	589	27	603
28	592	28	607
29	595	29	612
30	598	30	616
31	601	31	621
32	604	32	625
33	607	33	630
34	610	34	635
35	614	35	641
36	617	36	646
37	620	37	652
38	623	38	659
39	626	39	666
40	630	40	674
41	633	41	683
42	637	42	694
43	641	43	707
44	645	44	725
45	649	45	754
46	653	46	806
47	657		
48	662		
49	667		
50	673		
51	679		
52	685		
53	693		
54	702		
55	714		
56	730		
57	755		
58	805		

ATTACHMENT C
Grades 5-6 NYSESLAT 2011
Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart

5-6 Listening and Speaking		5-6 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score
0	402	0	426
1	451	1	475
2	477	2	501
3	493	3	517
4	504	4	529
5	513	5	538
6	521	6	546
7	527	7	553
8	533	8	559
9	539	9	565
10	544	10	570
11	548	11	575
12	552	12	579
13	556	13	584
14	560	14	588
15	564	15	592
16	567	16	596
17	571	17	599
18	574	18	603
19	577	19	606
20	580	20	610
21	583	21	613
22	586	22	617
23	589	23	620
24	592	24	624
25	594	25	627
26	597	26	630
27	600	27	634
28	603	28	637
29	605	29	640
30	608	30	644
31	611	31	647
32	614	32	651
33	616	33	654
34	619	34	658
35	622	35	662
36	625	36	666
37	628	37	670
38	631	38	674
39	634	39	678
40	637	40	683
41	640	41	687
42	644	42	692
43	647	43	698
44	651	44	704
45	654	45	710
46	658	46	718
47	662	47	726
48	667	48	736
49	671	49	748
50	677	50	765
51	682	51	792
52	688	52	843
53	695		
54	703		
55	712		
56	723		
57	739		
58	765		
59	814		

ATTACHMENT D
Grades 7-8 NYSESLAT 2011
Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart

7-8 Listening and Speaking		7-8 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score
0	429	0	432
1	479	1	481
2	504	2	507
3	520	3	523
4	532	4	534
5	541	5	543
6	549	6	551
7	555	7	558
8	561	8	564
9	567	9	570
10	572	10	575
11	577	11	580
12	581	12	584
13	585	13	589
14	589	14	593
15	593	15	597
16	596	16	600
17	600	17	604
18	603	18	608
19	606	19	611
20	610	20	615
21	613	21	618
22	616	22	621
23	619	23	625
24	622	24	628
25	624	25	631
26	627	26	634
27	630	27	638
28	633	28	641
29	636	29	644
30	638	30	647
31	641	31	651
32	644	32	654
33	647	33	658
34	650	34	661
35	652	35	665
36	655	36	668
37	658	37	672
38	661	38	676
39	664	39	680
40	668	40	684
41	671	41	689
42	674	42	693
43	678	43	699
44	681	44	704
45	685	45	710
46	689	46	717
47	693	47	725
48	697	48	734
49	702	49	746
50	707	50	762
51	712	51	788
52	718	52	838
53	725		
54	733		
55	742		
56	754		
57	769		
58	795		
59	845		

ATTACHMENT E
Grades 9-12 NYSESLAT 2011
Raw Score to Scale Score Conversion Chart

9-12 Listening and Speaking		9-12 Reading and Writing	
Raw Score	Scale Score	Raw Score	Scale Score
0	436	0	455
1	485	1	505
2	511	2	530
3	526	3	546
4	538	4	558
5	547	5	567
6	555	6	575
7	562	7	581
8	568	8	588
9	573	9	593
10	578	10	598
11	583	11	603
12	587	12	608
13	592	13	612
14	596	14	616
15	599	15	620
16	603	16	624
17	607	17	627
18	610	18	631
19	613	19	635
20	617	20	638
21	620	21	641
22	623	22	645
23	626	23	648
24	629	24	652
25	632	25	655
26	635	26	658
27	638	27	662
28	641	28	665
29	644	29	668
30	647	30	672
31	650	31	675
32	653	32	678
33	656	33	682
34	659	34	685
35	661	35	689
36	664	36	693
37	668	37	697
38	671	38	701
39	674	39	705
40	677	40	709
41	680	41	714
42	684	42	718
43	687	43	723
44	691	44	729
45	694	45	735
46	698	46	742
47	702	47	750
48	706	48	759
49	711	49	770
50	716	50	785
51	721	51	811
52	727	52	860
53	734		
54	741		
55	750		
56	761		
57	777		
58	802		
59	851		

ATTACHMENT F

NYSESLAT 2011 SCALE SCORE RANGES FOR DETERMINING ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

To determine a student's overall performance level, match the student's scale scores for Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing to the scale score ranges for Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing on this chart.

- To move from one performance level to the next, the student must score within the range of the higher performance level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.
- Students who have moved in only one combination of modalities remain at the lower performance level.
- To move from any performance level (beginning, intermediate, or advanced) to the English proficient level, the student must score at the proficient level in **both** the Listening & Speaking and Reading & Writing components.

Grade	BEGINNING		INTERMEDIATE		ADVANCED		PROFICIENT	
	Listening & Speaking	Reading & Writing	Listening & Speaking	Reading & Writing	Listening & Speaking	Reading & Writing	Listening & Speaking	Reading & Writing
K	510 and below	536 and below	511-572	537-581	573-615	582-608	616 and above	609 and above
1	519 and below	558 and below	520-581	559-608	582-648	609-654	649 and above	655 and above
2	542 and below	570 and below	543-601	571-622	602-660	623-662	661 and above	663 and above
3	554 and below	579 and below	555-610	580-629	611-674	630-678	675 and above	679 and above
4	566 and below	588 and below	567-620	589-641	621-683	642-690	684 and above	691 and above
5	578 and below	619 and below	579-630	620-659	631-685	660-703	686 and above	704 and above
6	586 and below	622 and below	587-638	623-667	639-695	668-709	696 and above	710 and above
7	596 and below	628 and below	597-650	629-673	651-702	674-709	703 and above	710 and above
8	604 and below	631 and below	605-660	632-681	661-702	682-709	703 and above	710 and above
9	622 and below	642 and below	623-677	643-697	678-714	698-725	715 and above	726 and above
10	627 and below	645 and below	628-685	646-701	686-720	702-731	721 and above	732 and above
11	634 and below	648 and below	635-693	649-710	694-727	711-738	728 and above	739 and above
12	639 and below	651 and below	640-703	652-714	704-727	715-738	728 and above	739 and above