



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

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TO: District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Schools  
Public School Administrators  
Nonpublic School Administrators  
Charter School Administrators

FROM: Angélica Infante-Green *A. Infante-Green*

SUBJECT: Newly Revised New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) to begin in the 2017-18 School Year

The purpose of this memo is to advise that, effective February 1, 2018, a newly designed NYSITELL will take the place of the current 2014 edition of the NYSITELL, the statewide identification assessment of English Language Learners. The 2018 edition of the NYSITELL will be aligned to the current New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), but abbreviated in length.

The 2018 NYSITELL will include many of the same question types as the NYSESLAT and will cover the same four modalities of Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. Due to the similarities between the NYSESLAT and the NYSITELL, educators who participated in the scorer training and scoring of the spring 2017 NYSESLAT will be familiar with the scoring required for the 2018 NYSITELL. An updated guide providing further details on the administration and scoring of the NYSITELL will be disseminated prior to the start of the 2017-18 school year.

As prescribed by Commissioner's Regulations (CR) Part 154-2.3, all public and charter schools must follow all steps in the initial and reentry process, which includes administering the Home Language Questionnaire (HLQ) and conducting an individual interview with students who have indicated on the HLQ that a language other than English is spoken at home. Further guidance regarding the identification of English Language Learners can be found on the [ELL Identification & Placement/Home Language Questionnaire](#) webpage. Nonpublic schools, though not required to do so, are encouraged to administer the NYSITELL for identifying English Language Learners.

Instructions for school administrators on the ordering of the new 2018 edition NYSITELL materials will be provided in Fall 2017.

Beginning February 1, 2018, with the new NYSITELL, schools will be required to contract with a Regional Information Center (RIC) or large-city scanning center for answer sheets and examination data processing services. The use of uniform

scannable answer sheets will allow for collection of student demographic information and student response data for each test question. This information will be reported by each regional data center to the Student Information Repository System (SIRS). The complete list of RICs and large-city scanning centers is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/ricbig5.pdf>. New York City nonpublic schools must contract with a scanning center outside the city.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please submit them to [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov). Thank you for your continued support with this important work.