



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OFFICE OF STATE ASSESSMENT
89 Washington Avenue, Room 775 EBA
Albany, New York 12234

October 2022

TO: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Schools
Principals of Public, Religious, and Independent Schools
Leaders of Charter Schools

FROM: Zachary Warner, Assistant Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Delay in the Transition of New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) to Computer-Based Testing

In June 2022, the New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) announced that the Spring 2023 Grades 2-12 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) field tests would be administered on computer, followed by the implementation of required operational computer-based testing for those grades in Spring 2024. Grades K and 1 were to remain as paper-based tests. The New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) would also be made available as an optional computer-based test.

The timelines detailed in the June memo were informed by a previously issued Request for Proposals that the Department issued seeking to contract with a vendor for the development and computer-based administration of the NYSESLAT. The work to be completed as part of that contract was scheduled to begin in Summer 2022. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the contract for that work was substantially delayed and was only awarded and executed earlier this month.

The Department is committed to providing students, teachers, and administrators with timely and meaningful opportunities to become familiar with all computer-based testing platforms – including for the NYSESLAT and NYSITELL – prior to full-scale implementation. Due to the delays in awarding the contract, the Department does not believe that there is sufficient time to provide the appropriate levels of support to schools needed to successfully administer the computer-based NYSESLAT field tests according to the original schedule. As a result, the Department will not implement the computer-based NYSESLAT field tests during the 2022-2023 school year. Additional guidance regarding the implementation of computer-based NYSESLAT and NYSITELL will be forthcoming.

With past technical issues addressed through significant upgrades in state and local infrastructure, the Department remains committed to the planned implementation timeline for statewide computer-based testing detailed in the [June 2022 memo](#). The Department intends that the first administration of computer-based NYSESLAT and NYSITELL assessments will remain within the planned window for statewide implementation of computer-based testing.

Questions about computer-based testing should be directed to the Office of State Assessment via email at CBTsupport@nysed.gov or by calling (518) 474-8220.