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

**FROM:** Elisa Alvarez *Elisa Alvarez*  
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**SUBJECT:** Extension of the End Date to October 29, 2021 for the COVID-19 Related Special Administration of the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners

This memorandum is to announce an extension to the end date for the one-time special administration of the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) being given to address the adverse impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in preventing some English language learners (ELLs) from being able to participate in the Spring 2021 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT).

Due to the extraordinary challenges associated with the reopening of schools this September, brought about by the ongoing pandemic, it is anticipated that some New York State schools may have difficulty completing the special administrations of the NYSITELL to all eligible students by the previously established deadline of September 30, 2021. In response to this concern, NYSED is extending the end date for the special administration of the NYSITELL to October 29, 2021.

NYSED is providing this extension so that all schools are able to determine their students' current English Language Proficiency (ELP) levels to ensure that they are receiving appropriate levels of ELL instruction and services as required by Commissioner's Regulations Part 154-2. The NYSITELL must be administered in person while adhering to the district's safety protocols as guided by the CDC and the local Department of Health.

As explained in our [May 2021 announcement](#), the special administration of the NYSITELL is available for those ELLs who received entirely remote instruction during the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT administration period and did not participate in the 2021 NYSESLAT. The special administration of the NYSITELL is not permitted for any ELLs who completed the Spring 2021 NYSESLAT.

If you have questions about student eligibility or any other aspect of the special administration of the NYSITELL, please contact the Office of Bilingual Education and World Languages at [obewl@nysed.gov](mailto:obewl@nysed.gov).