To: District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public Schools  
Principals of Public Schools  
Leaders of Charter Schools  
Leaders of Religious and Independent Schools  
Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (RBERNS)

From: Zachary Warner

Subject: 2024 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test: New Grade 1 Test and Mode of Administration

This memorandum provides two updates related to the spring 2024 administration of the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT).

Introduction of Grade 1 Test

Based on feedback from New York educators, the 2024 NYSESLAT will separate the Grades 1-2 band into distinct assessments. While the Grade 2 test will remain the same as the prior Grades 1-2 band, the new Grade 1 test has been developed specifically for students in that grade. A test sampler with examples of Grade 1 questions as well as directions for administration is available on the Office of State Assessment’s NYSESLAT webpage. Following the administration of the NYSESLAT in spring 2024 (see the 2023-24 testing schedule), English as a New Language (ENL) educators will meet to review the expectations for students and recommend achievement standards (also known as “cut scores”) for the new Grade 1 test.

Mode of Administration

In October 2022, a memo was issued to notify the field of a delay in the transition of the NYSESLAT to computer-based testing (CBT). That memo stated that “the first administration of computer-based NYSESLAT and NYSITELL assessments will remain within the planned window for statewide implementation of computer-based testing.” This intention remains and it is expected that the NYSESLAT and NYSITELL will transition to CBT in spring of 2026, the final year of the Grades 3-8 implementation. This timeline will allow for the ongoing Graduation Measures initiative to include discussions of the needs of English Language Learners and to consider recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission regarding opportunity and equity in obtaining a diploma. As a result, the spring 2024 and spring 2025 NYSESLAT administrations will be paper based.

Please contact the Office of State Assessment with questions about the NYSESLAT at (518) 474-5902 or emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.