

## Testing Accommodations for MLL/ELL Students

Schools may provide testing accommodations to ELLs, as needed, on all NYS ELA and content-area assessments (meaning, mathematics, science, and social studies). Schools must make all necessary arrangements to make these accommodations available for ELLs who need them. ELLs with IEPs and 504 plans are always provided with the accommodations on their IEPs and 504 plans.

**All ELLs and former ELLs for up to two years after testing out are entitled to the following accommodations:**

- **Time extension (all exams):** Schools may extend the test time for ELLs on NYS ELA and content area assessments and Regents examinations. Principals may use any reasonable extensions, such as "time and a half" (the required testing time plus half that amount), in accordance with their best judgment about the needs of the ELLs. Principals should consult with the student's classroom teacher in making these determinations. However, there are no time limits.
- **Separate location (all exams):** Schools are encouraged to provide optimal testing environments and facilities for ELLs. NYS assessments may be administered to ELLs individually or in small groups in a separate location.
- **Third reading of listening selection (English Language Arts exams only):** Proctors may read the listening passage three times to ELLs on grades 3-8 English Language Arts assessments and the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English.
- **Bilingual dictionaries and/or glossaries:** ELLs may use bilingual glossaries when taking State examinations in all subjects except world languages, formerly languages other than English exams (LOTE). The bilingual dictionaries and glossaries may provide only direct one-to-one translations of words. Bilingual dictionaries and/or glossaries that provide definitions or explanations are not permitted. Bilingual glossaries in the content areas are available for download.
- **Simultaneous use of English and alternative language editions are not allowed for English Language Arts examinations.** For state examinations for which SED provides written translations, ELLs may use both English and an alternative language edition of the test simultaneously. However, they should be instructed to record all their responses in only one language. The alternative language edition used by the student should be indicated on the student's answer sheet.
- **Writing responses in the home language is not allowed for English Language Arts examinations.** ELLs making use of alternative language editions or oral translations of state examinations may write their responses to the open-ended question in their home languages. Scoring the tests is the responsibility of the school.

- **Oral translations for low-incidence languages are not allowed for English Language Arts examinations.** Schools may provide ELLs with an oral translation of a state examination when there is no translated edition provided by SED. All translations must be oral, direct translations of the English editions. Written translations are not allowed. No clarifications or explanations may be provided. Translators should receive copies of the English edition of the tests one hour before administration.
- **Next-Day completion of Testing.** ELLs who have been granted the accommodation of extended time and are scheduled to take two Regents Examinations on the same day may be approved by the school principal for the accommodation of Next-Day Completion of a Regents Examination. If Next-Day Completion is approved by the school principal, the student must complete the entire morning examination and at least the first part (Part 1 or Part A) of the afternoon examination on the date the Department scheduled the administration of those examinations. The student must then complete the remainder of the afternoon examination on the next school day.
  - Prior to administration, the school principal must complete and submit to NYSED OSA an Assurance form. For additional information, refer to the NYSED memo (linked below) on Next-Day Completion of Testing for ELLs on Regents Administration.

Additional Resources & Direct Links
<a href="#">Bilingual Glossaries</a>
<a href="#">NYSED Memo - Next-Day Completion of Testing for English Language Learners/ Multilingual Learners on Regents Examinations</a>
<a href="#">Form: New York State Education Department Assurance of Next-Day Completion of Testing for English Language Learners on Regents Examinations</a>
<a href="#">School Administrator's Manual, Secondary Level Examinations</a>
<a href="#">Grades 3-8 Test Manuals</a>
<a href="#">NYSAA School Administrator's Manual</a>
<a href="#">NYSESLAT School Administrator's Manual</a>
<a href="#">English Language Learner and Multilingual Learner Assessment &amp; Testing Accommodations (NYSED)</a>

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **What accommodations are permitted for ELLs on the NYSESLAT?**

The NYSESLAT is specifically designed for ELLs. Therefore, the testing accommodations typically allowed for ELLs on other State exams are not permitted on the NYSESLAT.

### **What NYSESLAT accommodations are permitted for ELLs with an IEP?**

ELLs with an IEP or 504 Plan must be provided with the testing accommodations specified in their plan. Beginning with the 2017 administration of the NYSESLAT, in alignment with other State exams, students with disabilities whose IEPs or 504 Plans indicate that tests should be read aloud (via human reader or technology) must be granted this accommodation for all sections of the NYSESLAT. Previously, only the Listening, Speaking, and Writing sections could be read to students, while the Reading section could not. However, for the Writing subtest, students may not receive assistance with or corrections to spelling, grammar, paragraphing, or punctuation. For more information, please visit the Office of State Assessment and review the memo on changes to allowable testing accommodations for the NYSESLAT.

### **Can ELLs be exempted from any NYS Regents Examinations?**

A high school principal may grant exemptions to new entrants from another country or from another State on selected Regents Examinations for students who are initially placed in grades 11 or 12. This exemption includes all transfer students initially placed in 11th or 12th grade, and includes monolingual students as well as ELLs.

### **What exemptions apply to students who arrive in NYS and are placed in the 11th grade?**

A principal may grant an exemption from the Global History and Geography Regents Exam only if the student's first entry to a New York State school is in Grade 11. The principal may exempt a student from the requirement for the Regents examination in Global History and Geography, which is ordinarily taken and passed prior to the date of the student's entry.

### **What exemptions apply to students who arrive in NYS and are placed in the 12th grade?**

A principal may grant an exemption from the Science Regents Exam only if the student's first entry into a New York State school was in Grade 12. The principal may also exempt a student from the requirement for the Regents examination in Science and the Regents examination in Global History and Geography, both of which are ordinarily taken and passed prior to the date of the student's entry.