

## Testing Accommodations for LEP/ELLs

Schools may provide testing accommodations to LEP/ELLs, as needed, on all NYS ELA and content-area assessments (i.e., Mathematics, Science and Social Studies). Districts/schools must make all necessary arrangements to make these accommodations available for LEP/ELLs who need them. A list of NYS approved accommodations may be found in the School Administrator's Manual (SAM) for each respective test.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/sam/>

### Testing Accommodations for LEP/ELLs students on NYS ELA and Content-area assessments include:

- Time Extension (all exams): Schools may extend the test time for LEP/ELL students on NYS ELA and content-area Assessments and on 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 LEP students. Principals should consult with the student's classroom teacher in making these determinations
- Separate Location (all exams): Schools are encouraged to provide optimal testing environments and facilities for LEP/ELLs students. NYS assessments may be administered to LEP/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 LEP/ELLs on grades 3-8 English Language Arts assessments and on the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English.
- Bilingual Dictionaries and/or Glossaries: LEP/ELL students may use bilingual dictionaries and/or glossaries when taking state content tests. 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 downloading at: [http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilingual\\_glossaries.htm](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilingual_glossaries.htm)
- Simultaneous use of English and Alternative Language Editions are not allowed for English Language Arts Examinations. For state examinations for which the Department 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 of their responses in only one language. The alternative language edition used by the student should be so indicated on the student's answer sheet.  
Note: There are no translations of English Language Arts examinations.
- Oral Translation for Low Incidence Languages are not allowed for English Language Arts Examinations. Schools may provide LEP/ELL students with an oral translation of a state examination when there is no translated edition provided by the Department. 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 prior to administration. The Department's Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies, and the Bilingual/ESL Technical Assistance Centers (BETACs) can assist schools in locating suitable translators.

- Writing Responses in the Native Language are not allowed for English Language Arts Examinations. LEP/ELL students making use of alternative language editions or of oral translations of state examinations may write their responses to the open ended question in their native language. Scoring the tests is the responsibility of the school. However, the Department's Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies, and the BETACs can assist schools in locating persons who can translate the students' responses into English to facilitate scoring of the answer papers.

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

The NYSESLAT is designed specifically for LEP/ELLs. Therefore, testing accommodations ordinarily permitted for LEP/ELLs taking other State tests are not permitted for NYSESLAT. LEP/ELLs with disabilities should be provided the testing accommodations specified in their IEP or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan), with the two exceptions:

- The Reading subtest may NOT be read to ANY student
- For the Writing subtest, students may NOT receive assistance or have their responses corrected for spelling, grammar, paragraphing, or punctuation.

For further information, please see the 2008 School Administrators Manual for the NYSESLAT at the following web site address: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/apda/nyseslat/sam08.pdf> 

### **Can LEP/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 LEP/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 ordinarily taken and passed before the date of the student's entry.

[CR Part 100.5 \(iii\) \(b\)](#)  (10KB)

### **Test Accommodations for Former LEP/ELLs**

*Are there testing accommodations available for former LEP/ELLs students?*

Yes. Beginning in 2008, schools are permitted to provide LEP/ELL testing accommodations on NYS assessments to former LEP/ELLs for up to two years after testing at the proficient level on the NYSESLAT.

Details of the testing accommodations now permitted to former LEP/ELLs can be found at the following web site:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/biling/bilinged/formerlepells.htm>